THE DAILY COMMERCIAL, published by the Commercial Printing Company, No. 70 Fifth avenue.

TERMS OF THE DAILY: Single copy, 1 cent; delivered by carriers (per week) 15 cents; subscribers by mail (per year), $8 00, postage prepaid.

Communications designed for publication must be addressed to the Editor.

Letters on Business, Subscription, &c., address COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh.

The Weekly Commercial, a large sheet, containing all the Current News, Miscellaneous, Literary and Scientific Intelligence, and Valuable Reading for the family.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XIV. PITTSBURGH, FRIDAY MORNING, JANUARY 19, 1877. NO. 112.

The Daily and Weekly Commercial—NEWSPAPER DECISIONS.—1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Postoffice—whether directed to his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.

2. If a person orders his papers discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made and collect the whole amount, whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

3. The Courts have decided that refusing to take Newspapers or Periodicals from the Postoffice, or removing and leaving them unsalled for, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud.

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FIRST EDITION.

XLIV. CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 18, 1877.

SENATE.

Mr. Jones, of Florida, presented the petition of Williamson Call, Robert B. Hilton, J. E. Young and Robert Bullock, Democratic Presidential electors of Florida, claiming to have been legally elected, and asking that the electoral vote cast by them for President and Vice President be counted, instead of that cast by the electors on the other side. On motion of Mr. Jones the petition was laid on the table, and he gave notice that he would call it up next week.

Mr. Hamlin introduced a bill to amend the Postoffice Appropriation bill for the present fiscal year so as to change the compensation of postmasters of the fourth class to a basis of the stamps cancelled, instead of the stamps sold. Referred.

The Senate non-concurred in the amendments of the House to the bill making appropriations to supply certain deficiencies in the contingent fund of the House of Representatives and a conference committee was ordered. The Chair appointed as members of the committee on the part of the Senate Messrs. Windom, Allison and Withers.

The Senate bill amending the Pension law so as to remove the disability of those who, having participated in the rebellion, have since its termination enlisted in the army of the United States and become disabled, was called up by Mr. Ingalls and passed.

Mr. Edmunds, from the committee appointed to devise some means for counting the electoral vote, submitted a report in writing, accompanied by a bill. He said that the report, he was happy to say, was signed by all the members of both committees, with one exception. The committee would desire to take the bill up at the earliest possible day, probably Saturday, but certainly Monday next, and would press it to a final consideration. The committee was of the opinion that the measure they recommended was not what could be called a compromise, but it was a measure of justice in aid of constitutional government. No one would have the right to say that anybody's views had been surrendered in respect.

After the report and bill were read, the Senate took up the resolution recently submitted by Mr. Wallace on the same subject, and Mr. Bogy spoke at length in reply to the recent arraignment of Mr. Sherman in regard to the Louisiana matter.

Before Mr. Bogy had concluded his remarks, he yielded to Mr. Anthony, who reported a resolution to print 10,000 extra copies of the report of the special committee on the subject of counting the electoral vote. After an executive session the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

A good deal of time was occupied this morning in deciding the preliminary question as to whether the House should now proceed to the consideration of the resolutions reported last Friday from the Committee on the Privileges and Duties of the House in Counting the Electoral Votes or in that of the compromise plan proposed. The Republicans favored the latter, and the Democrats the former. Finally a vote by yeas and nays was taken, and resulted in yeas 141, nays 81, in favor of proceeding with the resolutions reported last Friday by Mr. Hoar, Chairman of the Committee on Privileges, &c., and Mr. Knott addressed the House. In the course of his argument Mr. Knott declared that any attempt to interfere with the constitutional duty of the House in regard to counting the electoral votes would be treason.

Mr. Knott having concluded, Mr. Payne, Chairman of the Committee on Counting the Electoral Votes, made a concurrent report of the two committees of the House and Senate, which he said had been signed by the seven members of the House committee and by six out of the seven members of the Senate committee. The report was then read. The report having been read, it was, on motion of Mr. Hoar, committed and ordered printed, and Mr. Payne stated that he would soon move to make it a special order.

The House resumed the consideration of the resolutions reported by the Committee on Privileges, and was addressed by Mr. Burchard, of Illinois, in favor of the minority report. At the close of Mr. Burchard's speech, the resolutions went over without action, and the House adjourned.

A Prominent Business Man of Erie Shoots Himself.

ERIE, January 18.—Mr. Richardson, of the firm of Newton, Richardson, pork packers of this city, was found dead in his bed this morning, shot through the heart, having committed suicide some time during the night. He left letters to his wife and partner showing that fear of financial embarrassments had induced the deed, though his troubles seem to have been somewhat imaginary. Both members of the firm came here from Buffalo last fall and have apparently been doing well. Mr. Richardson was a young man of good habits, unusually energetic, and had never given any indications of a suicidal purpose.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Indications for To-Day.—In the Ohio Valley, stationary or falling barometer, westerly winds, generally warmer and partly cloudy weather and possibly occasional light rains. In the Lower Lake region and Middle States, slowly falling barometer, westerly to southerly winds, warmer, clear or partly cloudy weather and possibly occasional light snow or rain in the first named district.

The President has nominated Ellis Spear to be Commissioner of Patents.

Mr. Fred. May is in Washington. He arrived there Tuesday last and is unhurt.

The Government bonded warehouse on Shutter's island, New Jersey, was burned yesterday.

The California rains continue, and are hailed with great joy by all interested in the crops of that State.

Additional testimony of intimidation and fraud in Mississippi and Louisiana was produced before the Senate committee yesterday.

The total losses of the Gloucester, Massachusetts, fishing fleet for the past year foot up 212 lives and 19 vessels, with an insurance of the value of $150,000, insured for $116,000.

A special from Annapolis says that Hon. George Wells, for the past fifty years President of the Farmers' and Planters' Bank, is a defaulter for the sum of $65,000.

A painter named Stone fell from a ladder the height of fifty feet in Cairo, yesterday morning, breaking his arm and several ribs. His injuries will probably prove fatal.

Louis C. Clermont, the Chambersburg, Pa., bank robber, who broke jail some time ago, was recaptured in Chicago last night, and awaits a requisition at the police station of that city.

A New York dispatch says that Julius Strang, of Pittsburgh, was arrested there yesterday afternoon by the request of the Chief of Police of Pittsburgh, on the charge of having embezzled sums of money by means of forged checks.

Charles Fisher, recently convicted of purloining papers from the office of the District Attorney in Washington, and subsequently pardoned and conveyed by his friends to the lunatic asylum in the District of Columbia, made his escape last night.

In the case of Charles N. Miller, of No. 40 Broadway, New York, charged with complicity in the Western whisky frauds, by permitting whisky to be removed from his premises without entering the same on his books, the jury returned a verdict of guilty on the first two counts of the indictment.

Shoenfeld Bros., 166 to 170 North Clark street, Chicago, dry goods merchants, have filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy. Their liabilities are $107,000; assets $58,000, and insurance of about $55,000. The firm has done a large business ever since the fire, in which they lost their entire property.

Intelligence arrived at Cheyenne yesterday, from Chug Water, fifty miles north, that the Indians made a raid on the ranches near Chug Water Station, Wednesday night, driving off about fifty horses. The Indians were followed by ranchmen several miles, but succeeded in getting away with the stock.

Horace E. Brown, broker of 35 Broad street, New York, has been arrested on suspicion of having been implicated in the forging of the check for $62,400, which was purported to have been drawn by the New York Life Insurance Company, and which was certified to as genuine by the cashier of the Union Trust Company.

At yesterday afternoon's session of the Convention of the Expressmen's Mutual Benefit Association in Baltimore, St. Louis was selected as the next place of meeting, and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, George Bingham, Pittsburgh; Vice President, J. G. A. Herring, Baltimore; Grand Secretary, Sutherland DeWitt, Elmira, New York; Executive Committee, H. W. Dwight, Springfield, Massachusetts, E. Hayden, St. Louis, A. S. Kerner, Baltimore, E. M. Morseman, Omaha, and W. Yates, Cleveland. The convention adjourned *sine die.*

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Bills Reported Affirmatively, Read in Place and Passed First Reading.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., January 18, 1877.

SENATE.

The following bills were reported affirmatively:

Conferring equity jurisdiction on courts in cases of mortgages of the property or franchises of coal, iron and other manufacturing and transportation companies.

Enabling married women to become corporators of corporations of the first class.

Regulating and making uniform the annual reports of prison inspectors.

The following bills were introduced:

By Mr. Jones, authorizing the purchase of Purdon's Digest.

By Mr. Gazzam, authorizing common pleas courts to decree the foreclosure of any corporation mortgage, etc.

By Mr. Holben, supplement to the act providing for the taxation of bank shares.

By Mr. Dill, relating to appeals from common pleas courts to the Supreme Court in cases of distribution of funds in the hands of assignees for the benefit of creditors.

By Mr. Greer, repealing the law authorizing the appointment of county detectives.

The following passed finally:

Providing for the appointment of a janitor.

Supplement relating to orphans' courts.

A resolution was passed granting the use of committee rooms to the State Editorial Association on the 25th inst.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

The following bills were reported affirmatively:

A general tax law; Mr. Chapin's bill relating to trades, etc., substituting a poll tax; providing for the purchase of Purdon's Digest.

The following bills were read inplace:

By Mr. Schaffer, of Allegheny, repealing the law creating the Board of Public Charities.

By Mr. Graham, of Allegheny, protecting springs, streams and water sheds of water works erected by boroughs. It refers specially to Sewickley borough.

By Mr. Quigley, a Susquehanna boom bill.

By Mr. Fulton, providing for compulsory education.

By Mr. Hubn, creating a five per cent. loan.

By Mr. Schnatterly, repealing an act to extend the competency of witnesses in certain criminal cases; also, repealing an act allowing interested parties to testify.

By Mr. Shoemaker, providing that assessors hereafter shall be elected for three years.

Among the bills that passed first reading were: An amendment to the constitution to the voters of the Commonwealth of the proposition for the removal of the State capital to Philadelphia, and an act relating to judgments and stay of execution.

Leave of absence was asked and obtained for the Speaker. Mr. Jackson, of Mercer, was appointed Speaker *pro tem.*

Adjourned.

THE SIOUX WAR.

Sitting Bull's Defeat—An Extract from Colonel Miles' Report.

CHICAGO, January 18.—The following is an extract from Colonel Miles' official report of the recent battle with Sitting Bull's band: Sitting Bull's band was again defeated at the head of Red water, December 18, by three companies of the Fifth Infantry under the command of Lieutenant F. D. Baldwin. "The Indian trail was obscured by a severe snow storm when north of the Missouri and as reports were conflicting, I divided my force taking three companies through the Musselshell and Dry Fork country, and sending three down the north side of the Missouri, four companies under Captain Snyder taking them on the Dry Fork." Sitting Bull had crossed near Woif Point, but on the approach of Lieutenant Baldwin's force retreated again at the head of his camp of 122 lodges. He was driven south of the Yellowstone and his camp captured with many lodges standing, together with sixty horses, mules and ponies, and everything pertaining to an Indian village was burned up. The Indians escaped with but very little besides what they had on their backs.

Lieutenant Baldwin and the officers and troops who are with him are entitled to great credit. The command has marched over five hundred miles, making seventy-three miles in forty-eight hours, and enduring the severity of a Montana winter with great fortitude.

Five prominent chiefs of the Sioux Nation were killed by their old enemies, the Crow, scouts, at this point, on the 17th inst., while coming in bearing a white flag, followed by some seventy or thirty others. This affair was most unfortunate, as their coming in would have secured the surrender of at least 1,000 fighting men.

The thermometer is forty degrees below zero.

CANADIAN COMMERCE.

The Dominion Board of Trade—Differential Duties and a Canadian Policy of Protection.

OTTAWA, January 18.—At the session of the Dominion Board of Trade, a resolution was offered to the effect that the Government be memorialized for the readjustment of the duties on sugar. Mr. Howland moved an amendment that a duty of fifty cents be imposed on all coal imported into this country. Mr. Patterson, of Montreal, moved an amendment to the amendment that in view of the depressed state of all important interests of the country arising to a great extent from the differential duties and drawbacks in force in the United States, this board favors the adoption by Canada of a national policy calculated to maintain and develope the trade and domestic manufactures of the country, and especially such a readjustment of tariff as may be necessary to relieve trade, manufacturing and agricultural interests from the difficulties under which they labor in consequence of those differential duties and drawbacks. After debate the resolution and Mr. Patterson's amendment were carried, the amendment setting forth the principle of a national protective policy being voted down.

POLITICAL.

HOAR LEADING IN THE MASSACHUSETTS SENATORIAL CONTEST.

BOSTON, January 18.—The third joint ballot for United States Senator was as follows: Whole number of votes 274; necessary to a choice 138: Hoar 100; Boutwell 88, Abbott 62, Rice 17, Bullock 4, Seelye 3. Fourth ballot—Boutwell 85, Hoar 104, Abbott 62, Rice 17, Bullock 4, Seelye 4. Adjourned.

The latest phase of the Senatorial contest to-night is the determination of the Boutwell men to vote Rice to-morrow as a compromise candidate, which, it is thought, will narrow the fight to Hoar and Rice with the chances in favor of the latter.

EX-GOVERNOR SAUNDERS ELECTED SENATOR FROM NEBRASKA.

OMAHA, January 18.—Edwin Saunders was to-day elected United States Senator on the third joint ballot, receiving 88, the full Republican and Independent vote. Governor Saunders was the last Territorial Governor of Nebraska.

THE ILLINOIS FIGHT—LOGAN HOLDING HIS OWN.

SPRINGFIELD, January 18.—Seventh ballot—Logan 99, Palmer 88, Anderson 7, Davis 6, Haines 1, Parish 1, blank 1. Eighth ballot—Logan 99, Palmer 88, Anderson 7, Davis 5, Haines 1, Parish 1. Ninth ballot—Logan 99, Palmer 86, Anderson 7, Davis 7, Haines 2, Parish 1. The tenth and eleventh ballots were the same. One hundred and one votes will now elect, a Senator, Bartholow, of Kankakee, a Republican, having been called home by the news that his wife was dying, and his colleague, Buzy, a Democrat, having paired with him.

THE TENNESSEE CONTEST—KEY AGAIN IN THE RACE AND HEADING THE LIST.

NASHVILLE, January 18.—After four ballots without result for United States Senator to succeed the late Andrew Johnson, the Legislature adjourned till to-morrow. D. M. Key was again nominated, also C. Whitthorne. The last ballot, the seventh, stood: Key 45, Bailey 44, Whitthorne 9; necessary to a choice 50. The Republicans voted for Key.

County and State Officials Indicted for Fraud.

HARRISBURG, January 18.—In the Dauphin county court this afternoon, true bills were found against James Cartwright, ex-County Treasurer of Luzerne county; James H. Millspaugh, ex-City Treasurer of Scranton; H. C. Jones, of Wilkesbarre; M. S. Smith, late clerk in the State Treasury Department; W. W. Kerr, W. J. Jackson and John A. Waggoner, clerks in the Auditor's Department, for conspiracy to embezzle by filing false statements and settling false accounts. All of the above are concerned in the false returns of license fees, etc., to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The trial will probably commence to-morrow.

SECOND EDITION.

The National Capital.

THE PLAN OF SETTLEMENT.

Report of the Joint Committee Yesterday.

Favorable Reception of the Measure.

A Fair Arbitration of the Disputed Points Generally Desired.

Democrats Abandon Their Proposition for a National Convention.

Secretary Chandler's Testimony Before the House Committee.

Questionable Reduction in the Appropriation Bills.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 18, 1877.

Favorable Reception of the Joint Committee's Plan of Settlement.

The plan of settlement of the differences existing between the two Houses of Congress as to the constitutional mode of counting the electoral votes for President and Vice President of the United States, reported to-day, affords a universal sense of relief, although the measure has yet much to undergo in the way of discussion and opposition before it becomes a law. The fact that it received so large a support from the members of the two committees is in itself an assurance that it will require more than an ordinary effort to defeat it. The moderate men of both parties accept the proposition as a feasible road out of the difficulty, considering that the great interests of the country and the honor of free institutions are above mere partisan advantages with one way or the other. A few ultra Republicans as well as Democrats will oppose the measure; but it is not now believed that their united strength will be sufficient to defeat it. There are those also who are unfriendly to the measure and yet will accord to it their tacit support, preferring it to any chances of a revolutionary attempt to force a result. So far as the board is concerned, no objection is found. It will unite a fair representation of the better element in both Houses, with the learning and judicial experience of the Supreme Court.

The Probable Composition of the Tribunal.

The composition of this tribunal of arbitration will doubtless be as follows: For the Supreme Court, Justices Clifford, Field, Strong, Miller and Davis; for the Senate, Messrs. Edmunds, Frelinghuysen, Conkling, Thurman and Bayard; for the House of Representatives, Messrs. Payne, Hunton, Hewitt, McCreary and Hoar. Of the members of the Supreme Court, in a geographical point of view, Justice Clifford, of Maine, represents the Eastern and Justice Field, of California, the Western. Justice Strong, of Pennsylvania, the Middle and Justice Miller, of Iowa, the Western States. The first two politically are Democrats, the last two are Republicans. By the choice of Justice Davis the independent element in politics will be represented. Justice Davis was the intimate friend of Lincoln, and by him was appointed to the Supreme bench. Of late years he has manifested aspirations for the Presidency, and flew off at a tangent, politically, on the outbreak of the Liberal movement in 1872. There have been some intimations in favor of the Chief Justice taking a position on the board, but his warm personal relations with Governor Hayes would be an obstacle in the way of his accepting the invitation, should it be made.

Will the Supreme Court Participate?

Should the bill become a law there would still be some doubt whether the justices of the Supreme Court would take a place on the board, for reasons already stated in these dispatches. They are extremely reticent as to their views on the subject directly, though by indirection they convey the impression that they will not interpose any technical opposition to participation on so patriotic a duty. At the proper time there will be a conference among the members of the court, at which the subject of co-operating with the board and the effect of such co-operation upon any questions growing out of the Presidential contest might, under the bill hereafter, will be determined. It is admitted that under some contingencies, the action of the justices on the proposed board would disqualify them from their duties on the bench

President Grant's Favorable Opinion of the Measure.

The President to-night, in conversation with a friend, said that he had not yet had time to examine the bill carefully and critically, but on a general perusal, he approved of a measure of like character alluded to, and if not objectionable in detail, or if it did not contain provisions at variance with the spirit and letter of the Constitution, he would accord to it his prompt approval. He said that from the beginning he had felt no apprehension as to the final result, as he has always had great faith in the intelligence and deliberation of the American people. There had been threatenings and indications of resort of revolutionary purposes in some quarters, to meet which he had taken proper measures of precaution, and for which he will keep prepared until his responsibility is at an end. He said that he was much encouraged at the prospects of a peaceful solution of the difficulties; for the two parties in Congress through a committee having come agreed upon a plan or ground of an adjustment of their difference, it would not be difficult to bring about a final settlement. It was always the initial steps which were the most difficult, and what follows is easy. He said that the country is now in a condition to commence a period of unexampled prosperity, founded upon the correct principles of business and values, and all that is wanting is an amicable and satisfactory settlement of the Presidential question.

Other Views of the Plan of Settlement.

Vice President Ferry looks upon the proposed plan of settlement, if it becomes a law, as relieving him from a grave responsibility, one, however, from which he would not shrink in the absence of legislation more distinctly defining his powers under the Constitution and laws.

Summing up the effect of the bill, a distinguished jurist said to-night that the board would in its action with respect to the electoral votes of the contested States, do one of three things, with the result stated: First, the board would decide not to go back of the returns, which would elect Hayes; second, that there had not been a fair election in certain designated States, which would result in another election; third, that the returns from Louisiana and Florida, or any other of the contested States, could not be counted, as not in compliance with the statutes, which would defeat an election by the electoral college, and throw it into the House of Representatives, which would result in the election of Tilden for President, and Wheeler for Vice President.

That National Democratic Convention Abandoned.

The Democratic Executive Committee met to-night and discussed the propriety of calling a national convention to meet at Washington about the time of counting the electoral vote. The sentiments expressed by the members present were opposed to the convention as being entirely out of keeping with public sentiment, and it was agreed that in view of the plan of settlement of the Presidential controversy submitted to the two Houses to-day, a convention would be doubly inexpedient and unwise. Under these circumstances, the project will doubtless be abandoned.

The Appropriation Bills—A Reduction of Five Millions.

The House Committee on Appropriations have advanced sufficiently in the preparation of the appropriation bills to enable them to determine as to the aggregate amount which will be appropriated for the coming fiscal year. Mr. Holman still persists in believing that he can make an aggregate reduction of ten millions. This can only be done by omitting the appropriations for the payment of the judgments of the Court of Claims and other items of a character which Mr. Holman believes can be omitted. Other members of the committee are not so sanguine and say that they will be satisfied if they can bring the aggregate reduction up to five millions.

The Telegrams to be Given Up—Rich Revelations Finally Becoming.

It is understood that Mr. Orton, in view of the request coming from both the Senate and House committees for the telegrams sent by the Republican and Democratic National Committees, will produce the required papers. It is intimated that there will be some interesting reading for both sides, that neither will have an opportunity to laugh at the expense of the other and that what may be said with reference to the use of Executive patronage in the interest of the Republican party will be fully offset by the means used to carry certain States for the Democrats.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 18, 1877.

THE GROUNDS OF THE PLAN OF SETTLEMENT—REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE—STATESMANLIKE AND PATRIOTIC DOCUMENT.

The following is the report of the committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, appointed under the several resolutions of those bodies to prepare and report such measures as may be best calculated to accomplish the lawful counting of the electoral votes and the best disposition of all questions connected therewith, and a final declaration of the result; The committees say that they have considered the subjects named in such resolutions, and have had full and free conference with each other thereon, and now report the accompanying bill and recommend its passage. The report further says: We have applied the utmost practicable study and deliberation to the subject, and believe that the bill now reported is the best attainable disposition of the different problems and disputed theories arising out of the late election. It must be obvious to every person conversant with the history of the country and with the formation and interpretation of the Constitution that a wide diversity of views and opinions touching the subject, not wholly coincident with the bias or wishes of the members of the political parties, would naturally exist. We have in this state of affairs chosen, therefore, not to deal with abstract questions, save so far as they are necessarily introduced in the legislation proposed. It is, of course, plain that the report of the bill implies that, in our opinion, legislation may be had on the subject in accordance with the Constitution; but we think that the law proposed is inconsistent with few of the principal theories upon the subject. The Constitution requires that the electoral votes shall be counted upon a particular occasion. All will agree that the votes named in the Constitution are the constitutional votes of the States, and no other, and when they have been found and identified there is nothing left to be disputed or decided. All the rest is the mere mechanical work of summing up the numbers, which, being done, the Constitution itself declares the consequences. This bill, then, is only directed to ascertaining, for the purposes and in aid of counting, what are the constitutional votes of the respective States; and whatever jurisdiction exists for such purposes, the bill only regulates as to the method of exercising it. The Constitution, our great instrument and security for liberty and order, speaks in the amplest language for all such cases in whatever emergency they may present. It declares that the Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all others powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any department or officer thereof. The committee, therefore, think that the law proposed cannot be justly assailed as unconstitutional by any one, and for this reason we limit ourselves to the mere details of our individual views, to discuss any of the theories referred to. Our fidelity to the Constitution is observed when we find that the law we recommend is consonant with that instrument. The matter, then, being a proper subject for legislation, the fitness of the means proposed becomes the next consideration. And herein we crave leave to submit a few brief observations. In all just governments both public and private rights must be defined and determined by law before they can attain to the very idea of such a government and is characteristic between free and despotic systems. However important it may be whether the decision of the Supreme Chief Magistrate for a period prescribed upon just theories of civil institutions, it is of far greater moment that the will of the people, duly expressed in the choice of that officer, shall be ascertained and carried into effect in a lawful way. It is true that in every operation of the governments of two free and most trivial to the most important, there will always be a possibility that the result reached will not be the true one. The experience of the first Liberal movement in 1872. There have been some intimations in favor of the Chief Justice taking a position on the board, but his warm personal relations with Governor Hayes would be an obstacle in the way of his accepting the invitation, should it be made.

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The following is the report of the committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, appointed under the several resolutions of those bodies to prepare and report such measures as may be best calculated to accomplish the lawful counting of the electoral votes and the best disposition of all questions connected therewith, and a final declaration of the result; The committees say that they have considered the subjects named in such resolutions, and have had full and free conference with each other thereon, and now report the accompanying bill and recommend its passage. The report further says: We have applied the utmost practicable study and deliberation to the subject, and believe that the bill now reported is the best attainable disposition of the different problems and disputed theories arising out of the late election. It must be obvious to every person conversant with the history of the country and with the formation and interpretation of the Constitution that a wide diversity of views and opinions touching the subject, not wholly coincident with the bias or wishes of the members of the political parties, would naturally exist. We have in this state of affairs chosen, therefore, not to deal with abstract questions, save so far as they are necessarily introduced in the legislation proposed. It is, of course, plain that the report of the bill implies that, in our opinion, legislation may be had on the subject in accordance with the Constitution; but we think that the law proposed is inconsistent with few of the principal theories upon the subject. The Constitution requires that the electoral votes shall be counted upon a particular occasion. All will agree that the votes named in the Constitution are the constitutional votes of the States, and no other, and when they have been found and identified there is nothing left to be disputed or decided. All the rest is the mere mechanical work of summing up the numbers, which, being done, the Constitution itself declares the consequences. This bill, then, is only directed to ascertaining, for the purposes and in aid of counting, what are the constitutional votes of the respective States; and whatever jurisdiction exists for such purposes, the bill only regulates as to the method of exercising it. The Constitution, our great instrument and security for liberty and order, speaks in the amplest language for all such cases in whatever emergency they may present. It declares that the Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all others powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any department or officer thereof. The committee, therefore, think that the law proposed cannot be justly assailed as unconstitutional by any one, and for this reason we limit ourselves to the mere details of our individual views, to discuss any of the theories referred to. Our fidelity to the Constitution is observed when we find that the law we recommend is consonant with that instrument. The matter, then, being a proper subject for legislation, the fitness of the means proposed becomes the next consideration. And herein we crave leave to submit a few brief observations. In all just governments both public and private rights must be defined and determined by law before they can attain to the very idea of such a government and is characteristic between free and despotic systems. However important it may be whether the decision of the Supreme Chief Magistrate for a period prescribed upon just theories of civil institutions, it is of far greater moment that the will of the people, duly expressed in the choice of that officer, shall be ascertained and carried into effect in a lawful way. It is true that in every operation of the governments of two free and most trivial to the most important, there will always be a possibility that the result reached will not be the true one. The experience of the first Liberal movement in 1872. There have been some intimations in favor of the Chief Justice taking a position on the board, but his warm personal relations with Governor Hayes would be an obstacle in the way of his accepting the invitation, should it be made.

Will the Supreme Court Participate?

Should the bill become a law there would still be some doubt whether the justices of the Supreme Court would take a place on the board, for reasons already stated in these dispatches. They are extremely reticent as to their views on the subject directly, though by indirection they convey the impression that they will not interpose any technical opposition to participation on so patriotic a duty. At the proper time there will be a conference among the members of the court, at which the subject of co-operating with the board and the effect of such co-operation upon any questions growing out of the Presidential contest might, under the bill hereafter, will be determined. It is admitted that under some contingencies, the action of the justices on the proposed board would disqualify them from their duties on the bench

President Grant's Favorable Opinion of the Measure.

The President to-night, in conversation with a friend, said that he had not yet had time to examine the bill carefully and critically, but on a general perusal, he approved of a measure of like character alluded to, and if not objectionable in detail, or if it did not contain provisions at variance with the spirit and letter of the Constitution, he would accord to it his prompt approval. He said that from the beginning he had felt no apprehension as to the final result, as he has always had great faith in the intelligence and deliberation of the American people. There had been threatenings and indications of resort of revolutionary purposes in some quarters, to meet which he had taken proper measures of precaution, and for which he will keep prepared until his responsibility is at an end. He said that he was much encouraged at the prospects of a peaceful solution of the difficulties; for the two parties in Congress through a committee having come agreed upon a plan or ground of an adjustment of their difference, it would not be difficult to bring about a final settlement. It was always the initial steps which were the most difficult, and what follows is easy. He said that the country is now in a condition to commence a period of unexampled prosperity, founded upon the correct principles of business and values, and all that is wanting is an amicable and satisfactory settlement of the Presidential question.

Other Views of the Plan of Settlement.

Vice President Ferry looks upon the proposed plan of settlement, if it becomes a law, as relieving him from a grave responsibility, one, however, from which he would not shrink in the absence of legislation more distinctly defining his powers under the Constitution and laws.

Summing up the effect of the bill, a distinguished jurist said to-night that the board would in its action with respect to the electoral votes of the contested States, do one of three things, with the result stated: First, the board would decide not to go back of the returns, which would elect Hayes; second, that there had not been a fair election in certain designated States, which would result in another election; third, that the returns from Louisiana and Florida, or any other of the contested States, could not be counted, as not in compliance with the statutes, which would defeat an election by the electoral college, and throw it into the House of Representatives, which would result in the election of Tilden for President, and Wheeler for Vice President.

That National Democratic Convention Abandoned.

The Democratic Executive Committee met to-night and discussed the propriety of calling a national convention to meet at Washington about the time of counting the electoral vote. The sentiments expressed by the members present were opposed to the convention as being entirely out of keeping with public sentiment, and it was agreed that in view of the plan of settlement of the Presidential controversy submitted to the two Houses to-day, a convention would be doubly inexpedient and unwise. Under these circumstances, the project will doubtless be abandoned.

The Appropriation Bills—A Reduction of Five Millions.

The House Committee on Appropriations have advanced sufficiently in the preparation of the appropriation bills to enable them to determine as to the aggregate amount which will be appropriated for the coming fiscal year. Mr. Holman still persists in believing that he can make an aggregate reduction of ten millions. This can only be done by omitting the appropriations for the payment of the judgments of the Court of Claims and other items of a character which Mr. Holman believes can be omitted. Other members of the committee are not so sanguine and say that they will be satisfied if they can bring the aggregate reduction up to five millions.

The Telegrams to be Given Up—Rich Revelations Finally Becoming.

It is understood that Mr. Orton, in view of the request coming from both the Senate and House committees for the telegrams sent by the Republican and Democratic National Committees, will produce the required papers. It is intimated that there will be some interesting reading for both sides, that neither will have an opportunity to laugh at the expense of the other and that what may be said with reference to the use of Executive patronage in the interest of the Republican party will be fully offset by the means used to carry certain States for the Democrats.

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The Commercial.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 1877.

TILDEN regards all Democrats as his voting cattle. He is manipulating the Bourbon members of the Illinois Legislature, now.

THE Democrats of New Hampshire stick to old Copperhead MARCY as their candidate for Governor. He has an infamous war record, which helped to beat him last year, but as he is rich, and gives liberally, the party cannot get along without him.

THE Democratic doctrine of State rights instantly vanishes into thin air whenever the Bourbon majority in the House of Representatives want to accomplish a given party object. They have gone back on all the theories for which they went to war in 1861, and now they have committed the most desperate of all assaults upon the sovereignty of the States by insisting upon the production of the original records and papers of the Louisiana Returning Board, over which they have no more authority than the man in the moon.

AH! The bogus White League Legislature of Louisiana has actually pledged itself by resolution to treat the colored people of that State "with kindness and fairness." Wonderful truthfulness! They will not molest the negroes, yet they march under arms to a general resolution. They will not gash and mangle any more BLUE-PINKSTONS, yet they besiege the rightful Legislature and Governor and carry the police stations with the bayonet. They are men of law, with arms in their hands; humane and docile patriots, with rebellion and murder back of them. Who says the age of miracles has passed?

THE report from London, lately promulgated, that as soon as the English stock brokers were led to believe that TILDEN was elected, Confederate bonds were placed on the London stock market, and quoted as having a certain value, stirred up the Confederates at Washington and their Northern allies to an unwonted indignation. It served to give the lie to TILDEN'S promise that the rebel debt should never be paid, and was a living demonstration of the fact that the Confederates in London, at least, believe that TILDEN'S election would in some way lead to an assumption of the Confederate debt.

THE city of New York is the stronghold of the Democratic party. During the past sixteen years its population has increased about thirty per cent., and within the same period the number of its offices and employees has increased one hundred per cent., while their total pay has increased one hundred and fifty per cent. Or, according to a recent estimate of Senator GERARD, whom the New York *Mail* vouches for as a sound Democrat, the annual expenditures of the city government, as a whole, are "about 350 per cent. higher than was the case in 1860." This is a fair exemplification of Democratic retrenchment and "reform."

TILDEN'S "cause" is steadily on the wane. Most of the decenter leading men of his own party are losing faith and interest in him. They begin to scan the vista of the future, and ask themselves whether grapes can come forth of thorns, or figs of thistles. That Oregon intrigue, especially, sticks in their throats. While the whole country is petitioning Congress and the Senate to come to a just conclusion and decide the Presidency on right and equity, TILDEN is caught opening an underground passage to a usurpation by purchase and trick. No wonder that men heretofore well inclined toward him are now spewing him out of their mouths.

NOW that the Senate committee have TILDEN'S nephew and private secretary before them, they might invite him to interpret the following little transaction, as described by the Cincinnati *Commercial*:

> Why does not the Senatorial committee summon John R. McLean, the proprietor of the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, and investigate him as to the disposition of money drawn from the Third National Bank of New York? There was a very interesting check received here on the day before the October election. The amount was $7,000. This sum was payable to the order of and paid to John R. McLean, and secured the election of two Democratic Congressmen, one of them the heroic reformer and economist, Banning. Why seek information beyond the Rocky Mountains, where rolls the Oregon, when there are such fat pastures smiling at home?

"AND now let us look at this matter from a Southern standpoint," says an "independent" New England paper, referring to the Presidential question. By a "Southern standpoint" it means, and all of its class mean, the view that an unrepentant ex-rebel takes of his lost cause. They throw out of their estimate the more than equal claim of the black race, which furnished, without a single traitor, one hundred and eighty-three thousand men who begged to fight for the old flag. The true way to test a man's moral health and political soundness, to learn whether he has recuperative power enough to serve him, is to observe if, when he speaks of the South, he takes in all colors, for, since all colors are there, they must be defended in their right to "stand up and be counted."

KELLY, the murderer of CATTO, who is now in prison in Philadelphia for that crime, admits that he is guilty. "I am the man who shot CATTO," he says; but the Democrats who were on the police force in 1871, and who allowed KELLY to escape, are trying hard to get up evidence to acquit him. The *Press* says:

> Detective Miller, of the District Attorney's office, having publicly announced yesterday, at the hearing before Committing Magistrate Carpenter, that Kelly was not the man who shot Catto, and that a witness would be produced at the trial who would swear that he took the pistol from the man who committed the deed, and that this man was now on the present police force, it may as well be stated that there is another witness who will testify that he *saw* Kelly shoot the unoffensive colored man, and furthermore Kelly has already said "I am the man who shot Catto" to a person who will be produced at the proper time and place, so that the matter simply resolves itself into a question of veracity between the murderer and the very sagacious detective, who was connected with the police department at the time of the murder, and should have ventilated his knowledge years ago.

AN unprecedented coincidence in literary history is that of the simultaneous publication of "The Sons of Godwin," a tragedy by Mr. WILLIAM LEIGHTON, a member of a Wheeling firm of glass manufacturers, and of TENNYSON'S "Harold," a drama founded on exactly the same historical events, having the same number of acts, almost the same length, and, with slight exceptions, almost the same characters. That Mr. LEIGHTON, who has contributed a number of valuable articles to the *Popular Science Monthly*, knew nothing of TENNYSON'S forthcoming volume, is evident from the following extract from a letter addressed by him to a Boston friend, published without his knowledge:

> Although entirely unknown to the world hitherto as a poet, I have always been an ardent admirer of poetry and of the drama. * * I have always admired the romatic interest that surrounds King Harold, and long ago—twenty years or more—contemplated a heroic poem on the subject. This book, which seems to you to come so strangely from me, is also a suprise to many of my friends. It was written and finished more than a year ago, my purpose in writing it being simply literary exercise and amusement, and with no intent to publish. Those of my friends, to whom I read the manuscript, expressed so much commendation of it, and urged me so strongly to present it to the public, that at length, in doubt and misgiving, I have done it. Now, when it is just out, I hear that Messrs. Osgood & Co., of your city, are publishing a historical drama, from the pen of the great Tennyson, upon the same subject, and entitled "Harold." So I suppose my little light will be snuffed out before any one has had time to notice that it had been lighted. I am very much afraid my book will be overshadowed completely by the work of the great English laureate, and I should not have published it had I known what was coming from him. But the thing is done and I must face the music.

THE manly course of England with regard to the international extradition treaty with this country meets the approval of all right-thinking people on that side of the water. It is never a humiliation to do what is right, or to atone for wrong that has been committed. It appears, however, that there is one man in England on whom the humiliation does fall with a crushing weight, and that man is Lord DERBY, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. There is a very sad story in connection with his course respecting the abrogation of the treaty, which has only just been made public. It is to the effect that he is far too often in a condition that renders him unfit for the conduct of any business whatever. One journal says openly: "If he was not Lord DERBY and Foreign Secretary, he would be properly classed with that section of the community known as habitual drunkards." How the habit has grown upon him until it has become almost irresistible, it is impossible to conjecture, for there is no man in England who, to all appearances, had a more brilliant future before him. Rich, highly educated, with the prestige of a long line of noble ancestors to urge him on, the spectacle he presents is as unaccountable as it is sad, and he is perhaps the last man in the kingdom of whom such things would have been prophesied. It is charged that he has often been incapable of taking part in the discussions at Cabinet meetings, and more often unfit to transact the ordinary business of his department. There is said to be little doubt that the Attorney General got hold of him while in one of his irresponsible moods, and influenced him to take the course he did in the WASLOW case, when, having once taken that stand, he felt compelled to maintain it, until the pressure of public opinion and the dignified attitude of our own Government compelled him to eat humble pie and endeavor to undo the mischief he had caused.

A GOOD IDEA.

We had just marked out an editorial upon the necessity of providing greater security for the craft engaged in our river commerce against the dangers by floods and ice, when we found the following in the Philadelphia *North American:*

> In view of the late destruction of steamboats, coal barges and other river craft on the Ohio by the giving way of the ice gorges in the Monongahela, would it not be well for capitalists who have their millions exposed to the freaks of the seasons and the rivers of the West to cast about for some measures to prevent such disasters in the future? Why cannot basins be built at the most important points on each river exposed to the dangers consequent upon a severe winter? We have harbors and docks and breakwaters on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts for the refuge and protection of vessels, and why cannot engineers lay out and establish such places of security for the steamboat traffic of our Western streams? To-day the losses by the flood of Sunday at Pittsburgh would pay for the construction at that point of a basin where a might be moored in safety against all ice gorges and spring floods, the great coal and steamer fleet which every year has to run the gauntlet of the raging waters of the Monongahela. The bed of that stream from the coal regions above, down to the "Smoky City," is covered with coal to the amount of millions of dollars in value, and the most of this loss has been caused by winter ice floods. It seems to us that at Pittsburgh, Wheeling, Steubenville, Cincinnati, Louisville and other points, if deemed necessary, basins might be constructed in which during the rigors of seasons so severe as the present, coal barges, flats and steamboats might have safe harbor until all danger was passed. The cost of digging them out, walling them and supplying the heavy gates requisite to resist immense masses of ice, would not be more than the reported losses of last Sunday to the river and coal interests of Pittsburgh alone. We throw out the hint in the belief that it may be found practicable. The energies and enterprise of our active and prosperous sister city have been crippled by Sunday's disasters and her citizens should now put their wits to work to ascertain whether its recurrence cannot, by their exertions and genius, be prevented in the future.

This is as well said as we could say it ourselves, and therefore we quote it. There can be no question of the general truth of what is here set forth; and the marvel is, when we look at the matter, that something of the kind suggested was not undertaken long since.

Two facts, however, are to be taken into consideration in this connection. In the first place, such winters do not occur often-ter than once in twenty years; and the escape from the perils of ice and flood has been so frequent that our coal men have naturally fallen into the plan of calculating the chances and running all risks, buoyed up with the hope that the dangers will somehow be averted. And in the second place, the expense of constructing basins has deterred most of our coal men from resorting to them as a remedy.

It is true, as our contemporary observes, that the losses by the present flood would pay all the cost of such basins; but men cannot be expected to anticipate such losses and provide against them by a great outlay of capital, when there are so many chances that there may be no immediate need for such outlay. Besides, men of limited capital cannot command, at will, the requisite credit for such investments, and hence are tempted to put off every expense for which there seems no present necessity.

We give these as the reasons why the work has never yet been undertaken; but the sad experience of the present year should have the effect of breaking up this hap-hazard system of trusting to the luck of chances. There is no such thing as ordinary safety from the perils of the river, in the winter season, except in a system of basins or docks so constructed as to ward off the ice and afford a secure harbor for both loaded and empty boats. It will take time, patience and capital to construct them; but if a beginning is once made, and their safety demonstrated, every man engaged in the coal business will be compelled to adopt them. We commend the matter to the consideration of all concerned.

POLITICAL GAMBLING.

The compromise plan finally adopted by the Congressional committee on the Presidential puzzle abandons the use of the lot in determining the constitution of the board of arbitration, and agrees to leave the question of settling disputed electoral returns to a commission consisting of five Senators, five Representatives and five judges of the Supreme Court. The Senators are to be selected by the Senate, the Representatives by the House, and four judges of the Supreme Court, viz., CLIFFORD and FIELD, Democrats, and MILLER and STRONG, Republicans, are to choose the fifth. This committee of fifteen is to determine all disputed questions and their decision is to be final.

It is to be presumed that the ten Senators and Representatives and the four judges will finally decide, each in favor of the views of his political party. It is not supposable that any one of them will get away from the bias of his political convictions, and it is certain that not one of the Democratic members of the commission will take any other than the partisan view. In that event, the decision will hang entirely upon the choice of the fifth judge; and this chance is but little, if any, better than the original lottery proposition.

It is also presumable that the two Democratic judges will refuse to vote for any one else than Judge DAVIS for the fifth judicial member of the commission, who, though nominally a Liberal Republican is, in reality, a decided Democrat; and that the two Republican judges will insist with equal pertinacity upon the selection of Chief Justice WAITE. The probabilities, therefore, are that the four judges will be unable to agree upon a fifth.

If they *should* agree upon Judge DAVIS, the case would be virtually settled in favor of TILDEN; and if upon Chief Justice WAITE, the preponderance of chance would be in favor of HAYES. We have no idea that any commission, so chosen, can or will settle this question upon its merits. There is no intention on the part of those who have framed it that they should do so, and no one would expect them to. The whole scheme is a game of chance, in which both parties stake the Presidency upon the hazard of the die that shall determine which party shall have the odd member out of the fifteen. Against this resort to political gambling we have before entered our protest, and now renew it. The Republicans should stand up firmly for the only constitutional method of determining such questions; for if they win by a resort to other methods, it will be simply their luck, and not their rights, that will carry them through.

PENNSYLVANIA once produced silk, which was pronounced by experts to be of the very best kind. The trial of it in 1830 to 1840 proved that there was no obstacle to the culture. But the experiment ran into a wild speculation in trees, and of course resulted in disaster. This, however, would not be likely to occur again, the course of trade have greatly changed since that day. All the silk then made was sent to Europe to find a market, there being no silk mills in this country, whereas there are now 213. American woven silk is now esteemed as it was not a few years ago; for the mills of Hartford, Paterson, Philadelphia and New York have established reputations for the excellence of their goods. It has so happened that various causes have lessened the production of raw silk, and that an increased demand for it has raised the price fifty per cent. within the past year. In view of these facts it is to be hoped that the bill to promote the culture of raw silk, recently introduced in the State Legislature, may receive due consideration at the hands of that body. It proposed to appoint a State officer whose duty it will be to instruct and influence citizens to engage in this culture at their homes, without the expenditure of capital in labor, etc., which has hitherto been the chief obstacle to this industry. That the State would be greatly benefited by making silk one of its staple products is apparent from the statistics furnished by a correspondent of the Philadelphia *Press*, showing that from five to six millions of dollars have been sent annually to China for raw silk for the past five years, and that the State can produce silk to that amount with no interruption to any present employment, while two hundred and thirteen silk mills of the United States furnish a ready cash home market for it. Moreover, a yearly trade of six millions of dollars in silk worms' eggs has passed across the country from San Francisco to New York during the last three years, on the way to France. The proposition to enter upon this culture is therefore opportune, both for the citizens of Pennsylvania, who need a new industry, and for the silk manufacturers, who need another market in which to buy the raw material for their mills. At various times there have been premiums and bounties offered by several of the States for cocoons and for silk itself, and these have given a temporary stimulus to the culture, but have never effected the establishing of the industry. Says the writer in question: "What is required is, first, example; then instruction, and lastly, the gradual opening of a trade between the mills and our own silk-growers. When this is once begun the culture will need no fostering by the State."

GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN predicts the death, in 1877, of KAISER WILLIAM and BISMARCK, CZAR ALEXANDER and GORTSCHAKOFF. The Sultan of Turkey will be poisoned, VICTORIA will die of paralysis, the Prince of WALES of apoplexy, the Pope from old age, DISRAELI from port and stomatic gout, DELANE, editor of the London *Times*, and CARLYLE. The home death roll will include THURLOW WEED, General DIX, BRYANT, DEL. and PETER COOPER, from old age, and FERNANDO WOOD, COX and General BUTLER from bad ventilation and high living. Why he didn't include himself in the list is hard to tell.

THE Allentown *Chronicle* says that in the upper end of Lehigh county they have a more prosperous state of affairs than existed even previous to the panic. The home demand for slate has been most excellent and the exportations to Europe are growing constantly in importance, the foreign trade promising to assume vast proportions.

THE Washington *Star* well says that the KNOTT committee seem to have made rather a "water-haul" so far in their investigation of the doings of the Republican National Committee. The telegrams of Secretary CHANDLER, for instance, did not prove to be quite what the Democrats apparently expected.

THE total foreign exports of Philadelphia, last year, amounted to $50,552,300, against $31,936,727 for the year 1875, an increase of $18,615,573. The total imports during 1876 were $20,208,763, as compared with $24,011,014 for the preceding year, a decrease on the right side of $3,712,251.

THE Republicans of Blair county will vote, on the 20th of February, on the question as to whether they will or will not adopt the Crawford county system in making nominations.

PERSONAL.

By a curious slip in the law relative to the Pay Department, the Paymaster General only holds the rank of colonel, and is entitled to the pay of that office; while three brevan officers under him rank and receive pay as brigadier generals. A bill has been introduced to correct that mistake, and to give the Paymaster General the full rank and pay of brigadier general.

The intellectual circle in Boston found that reading Milland Spencer at evening meetings was a little too heavy for general digestion. Some one hit upon the happy thought of scrap book parties. It was found that almost everybody owned a scrap book, and it was arranged that each should bring his in succession, and a rich entertainment has been provided for many evenings to come. The idea threatens to develop into a scrapbook mania.

One of the strangest freaks of nature on record occurred in San Francisco, recently. A female child was born without eyes. There was no indication of the existence of eyes. The family physician made slight incisions, thinking that the child had been born blind, and that eyes existed. But no traces of a pupil were found, and there were no indications of the existence of matter which forms the eye. The child is healthy, and no other deformity exists. The other children are well formed and healthy, and the parents are not afflicted with any hereditary taint. It is known, to Leading physicians, of long practice, say there are very few such cases known to medical science.

The story of the generosity of Wade Hampton in destroying the will of his father because it made an unjust distribution of property is described as "pure fiction" by General John S. Preston, of South Carolina, who writes: "Neither Colonel Wade Hampton nor his father left a will. Of course neither Colonel Wade Hampton nor his son Governor Wade Hampton ever destroyed a will. Colonel Wade Hampton, the father of Governor Hampton, was admitted to an equal share of his father's estate by the consent of his step-mother and her daughters, who, under the law of Louisiana, inherited three-fourths of the estate. I do trust this statement will stop the recirculation of this silly fiction, which is unjust to the descendants of General Wade Hampton through his daughters, Mrs. Manning and Mrs. Preston."

Littell's Living Age.

A prominent feature of the current numbers of the *Living Age* is the new and powerful serial, "The Marquis of Lossie," by George MacDonald, appearing in its pages from advance sheets. The number for the week ending January 13th contains a valuable article from the London *Quarterly Review*, on "The Microscope and its Revelations;" a long and interesting account of "Our Arctic Voyage," by the Chaplain of the "Discovery;" a short story, "A Peasant Prometheus" translated for the *Living Age* from the French of Emile Souvestre, and other noteworthy matter. This is the second weekly number of the new year and new volume. The back numbers containing the first instalments of MacDonald's new serial are still sent gratis to new subscribers for 1877. For fifty-two numbers, of sixty-four large pages each (or more than 3,000 pages a year), the subscription price ($8) is low; while for $10 50 the publishers offer to send any one of the American $4 monthlies or weeklies with the *Living Age* for a year, both postpaid. Littell & Gay, Boston, are the publishers.

The late snow storms in Texas have been of incalculable value to that State, as, by its slow disappearance, it will moisten the soil to its lowest depths, thus insuring a rank growth to winter crops. They will also have the effect to persuade stock-raisers to put up a few tons of hay every year for use in case of an emergency.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The words "soul" and "male inhabitant" mean the same thing in Selavonic speech.

An Indiana couple celebrated their golden wedding last week by procuring a divorce.

It is said that the hat and cap trade suffer more than any other branch of business by the general depression.

The great Corliss engine that supplied power for all the machinery at the Centennial, has been sold to a European firm.

To celebrate Queen Victoria's recent assumption of her new title of Empress of India, 15,988 good-conduct prisoners were liberated.

More than one hundred thousand persons are yearly found drunk and incapable in the towns of Scotland. Verily, "the Scotch are a sober nation."

As an outlet for the over-crowded California grape market, they have begun to manufacture syrup. Three gallons of grape juice make one of syrup.

A watch should be kept on the great rivers of the Northwest, and preparations made to avoid such general destruction there next month as has just occurred here.

An eccentric Englishman some time ago left his daughters by will their weight in one pound bank notes. The eldest received $256,000 and the youngest $286,720.

It is a curious sign of the times in India that, chiefly with native capital, a large cotton mill has lately been established at Barrackpore, near Calcutta, with the figure of the god Vishnu for its trade mark.

There has lately been developed a considerable demand for "Thomas" iron, and since the first instant some 7,000 tons have been marketed, though the sellers are reticent and unwilling to give particulars at the moment.

The claim of Baltimore to the title of the "Liverpool of America" will seem somewhat weak in the face of an ice embargo which has lasted for nearly a month. During a good part of this time the ice has extended for 130 miles down Chesapeake bay.

To the fame of Chicago as a grain center, pork center, lumber center, religion center, music center, railroad center, fire center, divorce center, and general go-ahead center, is now to be added its distinction as a tremendous storm center.

The recent fire in Tokio, Japan, ranks among the great conflagrations of the world. It began in the densest part of the city, cutting a gap half a mile wide, and, after burning over two square miles, rendering 100,000 people homeless, was stopped by the waters of the bay.

The Powder river expedition encountered some of Mark Twain's New England weather up in the Big Horn Mountains. The mercury on Christmas morning froze in the bulbs of the thermometers, and the noses, ears, cheeks or fingers of nearly half the command were frosted during the march.

Vegetables are capable of taking up metallic particles from the soil. An eminent French physician, recently consulted by a family suffering from lead poisoning, found that they lived in the neighborhood of a place where the manufacture of white lead had been carried on some years before, and that they ate of vegetables grown on the spot.

A Montana surgeon recently utilized snow in an operation. Having to extract a tumor of the size of an apple from a man's side, he mixed some snow and salt, applied the freezing mixture to the tumor till the surface became white, and then cut out the tumor, the patient all the while reading a newspaper, and unconscious of the action of the knife.

More than half the pastors in the Dakota Presbytery are native Sioux. There are nine churches belonging to the body, six of which have native Indian pastors. These churches embrace 757 members, and their gifts for various objects amounted last year to $992. Who dare say that the Indians cannot be Christianized, with such a record?

Our planet would seem to be passing through an extraordinary state of disturbance. Abroad the winter climate is very much like our own. New Year's day will long be memorable in England for a gale surpassing in its violence any tempest that has visited the English coasts since the hurricane of 1703, when the old Eddystone lighthouse was washed away.

The farmers in Nebraska have commenced the domestication of the buffalo, Wild animals, while young, are introduced among herds of the tame stock, "of course one or two at a time. Half and quarter breeds are found to be very hardy, and in the yield of milk, the cows raised of mixed stock give even more than the average yield of rich milk. The experiment promises well.

The Crystal Palace at Sydenham, England, has the largest clock in the world. The dial is forty feet in diameter. The hands, with their counterpoises, weigh nearly a quarter of a ton; the minute hand measures nineteen feet in length, and moves half an inch at every beat of the pendulum. The distance traveled by the point of the minute hand is nearly four miles a week.

The French clergy, it appears, are the poorest in Europe, and their buildings are grievously dilapidated. Thousands of communes are without priests. In twenty-seven dioceses out of the ninety in France, 1,933 are thus destitute, and other dioceses swell the the number to 3,000. Aged priests are without any provision for superannuation. This parsimony toward religion is unworthy of France.

An enterprising New Jersey mechanic who lately visited South America, told the natives that their refuge from earthquakes does not lie in stone but in wooden buildings. They saw the good sense of the suggestion and salaried him in several thousand gold dollars annually to build their towns and cities of wood. He has just secured mechanics and all the material for building, except wood, in New Jersey, and sailed for Venezuela. This is the foundation of a new commerce.

An eminent English physician says he has found sulphur almost a specific for scarlet fever. He anoints the patient twice daily with sulphur ointment, gives from five to ten grains of sulphur in a little jam three times a day, and burns sulphur in the room of the patient twice daily. He says that he has given this treatment extended trial for over two years, and that under it not one of his patients was more than eight days in making a complete recovery, although the cases were well marked, the surface skin on the arms coming away like the skin of a snake.

The Indiana Legislature is considering a bill for the better protection of human life on the railroads, which requires the use of brakes under control of the engineer under penalty of $500 each trip, and a double amount in civil damages to any one injured; requires annual reports of the miles run, passengers carried, persons killed, and the amount of damages paid, of which the Auditor of the State must publish an abstract. A failure to comply will subject the company to being enjoined from running its road. A false report is to be treated as felony, subjecting the author to fine and imprisonment.

POLITICAL.

There is a great statesman named Hewitt,
Whose letters were scanned, and he "knew it,"
But when asked for his proof
He stood calmly aloof,
And merely remarked "he'd destrew it."
—*Springfield Republican.*

The Oregon exposures seem to have chilled the talk about "reform," which was kept up from force of habit. Mr. Tilden said once upon a time that the people did not want him so much as the reform which he represented. That was before the reform had been sampled.

Mr. Blaine is likely to disappoint the Democrats as completely as Mr. Conkling has. A Washington dispatch to the Boston *Herald* says: "Mr. Blaine has declared himself upon the political situation in a letter which has been received here. He denies that he has ever said or done anything which would warrant anybody in forming any judgment as to what course he intends to take on the Presidential dispute. He states that, being a new Senator, he does not intend to speak on the subject at all. He declaras that he has seen nothing to change his first impression that Hayes and Wheeler are elected, and that being the case, he does not see why any compromise should be made."

S. M. Pettengill & Co.,

Advertising Agents,

37 Park Row, New York,

Desire to Call the Attention of Business Men, who wish to reach the Reading Public, to the following

FACTS:

1. They have been in the Advertising business for nearly thirty years, and given it constant attention and study during that time.
2. They have had, and continue to have, cordial business relations with all the newspapers and other periodicals in the United States and Canada.
3. Their record with all these publications is one of fair treatment, honorable dealing and prompt settlements.
4. In consequence of this, they can always have advertisements inserted at the publisher's *lowest rates.*
5. They are so acquainted with the entire press of the country that they can select the *best mediums* for any given purpose.
6. Having done advertising for all kinds of business, and noted the results to their customers, they can give valuable suggestions as to the *size, style and position* which will make the most effective advertisement for the object to be attained.
7. Having frequent orders for a large number of papers, they can, in most cases, get the work done for *less cost* than the advertiser would have to pay if he sent the order direct.
8. They examine all papers, note all omissions or irregularities, secure the strict fulfillment of every stipulation of the order, and submit full files for the inspection of the advertiser.
9. They give the advertiser the full benefit of the facilities and of their supervision *without charge*, a commissions being paid by the publishers.
10. They submit estimates for any given list of papers, or for properly covering any given district.
11. For a systematic working up of any large enterprise, they assist in the preparation of circulars, pamphlets and general reading matter, in addition to newspaper advertising.

They invite a call from any parties who contemplate advertising in any way or for any amount.

S. M. PETTENGILL & CO.,
37 Park Row, New York.
701 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
Centennial Grounds, Philadelphia.
10 State Street, Boston.

Pittsburgh Bank for Savings,

No. 61 Fourth Ave., Pittsburgh.

CHARTERED IN 1862.

BOARD OF MANAGERS.—George A. Berry, President; John Scott, Jas. Park, Jr., Vice Presidents; A. Bradley, J. L. Graham, A. S. Bell, Wm. S. Nimick, John S. Dilworth, F. Bahm, G. Follansbee, Robert C. Schmertz.
Chas. G. Minor, Secretary and Treasurer.
SOLICITOR—John H. Bailey.

DRY GOODS

1877. 1877. JANUARY.

Greatly Reduced PRICES.

MEDIUM AND FINE

Dress Goods!

Ladies' Cloth Cloaks!

LATEST DESIGNS.

CHOICE ASSORTMENT

Fine Furs!

Extra Good Bargains will be offered in all the above Goods.

James Caldwell & Co.,

No. 115 and 117

FEDERAL ST.,

ALLEGHENY.

DISSOLUTION.

DISSOLUTION.

The partnership heretofore existing between F. F. FARRER, R. H. FARRER and C. W. FARRER, known as the PITTSBURGH ACID WORKS, was dissolved by mutual consent August 1, 1876. R. H. EMERSON acting.
F. F. FARRER.
R. H. FARRER.
C. W. FARRER.

The business will be continued by F. F. FARRER, C. W. FARRER and G. B. LITTLEFIELD, under the style of the PITTSBURGH ACID WORKS.
F. F. FARRER,
C. W. FARRER,
G. B. LITTLEFIELD.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.—THE partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned at Pittsburgh, Pa., under the names of E. W. McCLURE & CO. and Mc. CLURE & CO., is this day dissolved by mutual consent, E. W. McCLURE retiring from the business, which will continue to be carried on by G. T. RAFFERTY, under the name of McCLURE & CO. The claims and accounts due by or to the late firm will be settled at No. 14 Smithfield street, Pittsburgh, Pa., by G. T. RAFFERTY.
E. W. McCLURE.
G. T. RAFFERTY.

In retiring from the coke business, the undersigned asks for the succeeding paper that continuance of the patronage and favor which the late firm has enjoyed.
E. W. McCLURE.
Pittsburgh, Pa., January 1, 1877.

LECAL

DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.
In re RASPER FUGRS, Bankrupt; No. 1,537 in Bankruptcy.
The third general meeting of the creditors of said bankrupt will be held at the office of SAMUEL HARPER, Register, No. 98 Diamond street, Pittsburgh, on the 7TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1877, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the purposes named in the 27th section of the Bankrupt Act of March 2, 1867.
JOHN G. WALPHER, Assignee.
January 17, 1877.

ESTATE OF MRS. DEBORAH HAUGHEY, DECEASED.—Letters of administration upon the estate of Mrs. D. Haughey, late of Wayneville, Clark county, Va., having been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims against the same will present them to ROBERT R. LYTLE, Administrator, No. 15 Robert street, Eleventh ward.

R. H. PALMER & CO.,

"LIMITED,"

SUCCESSORS TO R. H. PALMER,

WILL CONTINUE THE

Hat, Cap and Fur Business

AT

No. 151 Wood Street,

AND THE

STRAW, MILLINERY,

AND FANCY GOODS BUSINESS

AT

No. 105 Market Street.

1876 Christmas 1876

—o:o—

With the return of the season, I would most respectfully ask you to call and examine my large stock of goods suitable for Holiday Presents.

In Engravings the line has never been excelled, and in Photographs, Chromos, Water Colors and Lithographs, I have a full and complete stock.

In the Department of Frames, to which special attention has always been given, will be found a large and varied assortment which, for superiority of manufacture and artistic design, cannot be excelled.

W. W. BARKER,

125 FIFTH AVENUE,

Pittsburgh, Pa.

PATENTS.

Persons desiring to procure Patents, or wishing to obtain information from the U. S. Patent Office, are advised to consult F. A. LEHMANN, of Washington, D. C., corner of Seventh and G streets, or 25 Fifth avenue, Pittsburgh
Send for Circular

DRY GOODS

1877.

New Goods

AT WILLIAM

Nos. 165,

CLOTH SUITINGS.

New and Seasonable Dress Goods at special low prices.
At 10c, Knickerbocker Suitings, all shades.
At 25c, new English Basket Suitings; good value at 31c.
At 30c, Matalasse Basket Cloth Suitings; worth really 37½c.

NEW DRESS GOODS.

At 12½c, Striped and Plaid Seasonable Dress Goods 42- This line includes many varieties of only new and sea-onable styles in press fabrics, embracing some worth from 20 to 25c.

COLORED DRESS GOODS.

At 25 to 50c, we are offering a large and beautiful line of fine Dress Goods, the assortment of which is unusually attractive, containing all the latest choice colorings suitable for the season, and each lot will be found marked at prices much lower than such are usually sold.

SAECIAL NOTICE.

42- A superior advantage having been afforded us, owing to the extremely dull Silk Season in New York during November and December, we have obtained a line of

BLACK & COLORED DRESS SILKS

at prices lower than those of one year ago, when Silks were lower than ever before known, and to which we respectfully invite an examination.

ALPACAS, CASHMERES.

Black Alpacas, Black and Colored Cashmeres. Colored and Fancy Dress Goods, Deep Mourning Goods, &c.
Stock full and complete, and good value for the money on each counter.

Daily arrivals of Ne attention to the SPECIAL BAR the Very Best Possible Valu

1877 1877

$8.00

THE

Pittsburgh Commercial

FOR 1877.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE REDUCED

TO

EIGHT DOLLARS.

Cheapest Business Paper in the State.

UNSURPASSED AS A

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL

AND

General Newspaper.

The PITTSBURGH DAILY COMMERCIAL, from and after the 1st of January, 1877, will be mailed to subscribers, in the United States, at EIGHT DOLLARS per annum, postage prepaid. The paper, which has heretofore so freely found its way to the business office of the Banker, the Merchant and the Manufacturer, and has so firmly maintained its character as a medium for the dissemination of reliable information concerning Financial and Commercial affairs, will commend itself more largely to all classes of traders, now that the price has been so materially reduced. It is not only the purpose of the management to keep the Business Department of the Commercial fully up to the standard of past years, but to improve them, from time to time, by introducing such new features as the necessities of trade and a proper regard for the interests of the patrons may require.

IN POLITICS

The COMMERCIAL will endeavor to pursue the same course which has characterized it in past years. It will support Republican principles, always exercising the right to freely criticise party measures which do not meet its approval, and to condemn the acts of party friends when those acts do not comport with its sense of right and justice. It will remain faithful to the great aims and convictions upon which the Republican party was based, and will espouse the cause of no clique or faction. The grave questions which now agitate the country, and which must in due time reach a proper and just solution, will be freely discussed, it will be full of interest to the general reader, and will be equally and impartially, but firmly, discussed, in all their bearings.

THE NEWS DEPARTMENTS

Will be fully up to the demands of the reading public. In addition to the comprehensive and accurate reports of the Associated Press, giving the news from all parts of the world, arrangements have been made for Special Telegraphic and Mail Correspondence from the National and State Capitals, and from other important centers.

In the department devoted to the publication of Local News will be found a complete daily history of the city and its environs, gathered by a corps of careful writers and set forth in attractive style.

THE MARKETS

Will, as heretofore, receive careful attention. Full telegraphic reports of the State of Business, with Prices Current, will be received daily from the Trade Centers of this country and Europe. The Pittsburgh Market, in all its branches, will be reported fully and accurately. As a commercial journal the COMMERCIAL stands second to no paper in the country.

The Financial Column will give daily the ruling rates for money and the prices of Stocks and Bonds at all the great trading points, with much interesting statistical matter.

INTERESTING MISCELLANY,

Embracing Poems, Sketches, Incidents of Travel, etc., will find a place in the columns of the COMMERCIAL, furnishing abundance of instruction and amusement for the family circle.

TERMS FOR THE

Daily Commercial.

Postage Free to Subscribers

By mail, per annum	$8 00
By mail, for six months	4 00
By mail, for three months	2 00
By mail, for one month	75
By the week, payable to agents or carriers	15

THE WEEKLY COMMERCIAL!

A PAPER FOR

THE FARMER,
THE MECHANIC.
THE MANUFACTURER,

Will contain in condensed form all the

NEWS OF THE DAY,

Including the Proceedings of Congress and of the Legislatures of Neighboring States, Interesting Correspondence, Choice Selections and

Complete Weekly Market Reports

SPECIALLY PREPARED FOR IT.

The WEEKLY COMMERCIAL will be sent

Postage Free to Subscribers.

Terms for 1877.

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL.

(POSTAGE PREPAID.)

One Copy, One Year.....$1 75

CLUB RATES.

Ten Copies, per annum, each.....$1 50
Twenty Copies, " and over, each.. 1 25
And ONE EXTRA COPY to the getter up of Club.

Additions may be made to a Club at any time during the year, at the Club prices, the subscriptions continuing a FULL YEAR from the time the additions shall have been made.

These prices are invariable.

Terms—CASH in advance. Remit in Drafts or Postoffice Money Orders, if possible, and where neither of these can be procured send the money in a REGISTERED LETTER.

SPECIMEN COPIES SENT FREE.

Address all orders and letters to

"THE COMMERCIAL,"

PITTSBURGH, PA.

DRY GOODS

Wednesday,

in Every One of

AT WILLIAM

167 and 169 Fed

SACQUES AND CLOAKS.

A line of Ladies and Misses' Cloth Sacques, Cloaks and Wraps at lower prices than usual. We are offering in the above goods special bargains.
Ladies' Beaver Cloth, Basket, Chinchilla and Matalasse Cloth Sacques, from $1 50 each upward, being one-third less than usual prices.

FURS! FURS! FURS!

Ladies, Misses and Children's Furs of all kinds at special low prices.

WHITE GOODS.

Choice and full assortment of White Goods of every description at very low prices.

LADIES' UNDERWEAR.

Ladies, Misses and Children's Underwear and Skirts of all kinds at low prices.
At 37½c, Ladies' Woven Merino Underskirts, a special bargain.

CLOTH SACQUINGS.

Beaver, Rough and Matalasse Cloth Sacquings, a full line.

READY-MADE CLOTHING.

Gents, Youths and Boys' Ready-made Overcoats and Clothing, in all qualities and latest styles, or made to order at short notice.

BOOTS, SHOES, &C.

Also, a full and complete stock of Winter Boots, Shoes, Gaiters, Arctics, Gum Overshoes, &c., in all grades and qualities.

HATS AND CAPS.

Gents and Boys' Hats and Caps at lowest prices.

w Goods add many attraction GAINS in each as a comparis e in everything now on our

JOSEPH HO MARKET

HAVE NOW OPEN EN

FALL AND AU

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC DRY GOOD COTTON AND WOOLEN GOODS, BARE EKY, STRAW AND SILK GOODS, VEL OWN IMPORTATION, BLACK AND CO CLOSE CASH AND SHORT TIME BU VANTAGE TO EXAMINE OUR STOCK

WHOLESALE

INSURANCE.

Manufacturers and Merchants' INSURANCE COMPANY.

87 WOOD STREET, Pittsburgh, Pa.

FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE.

Capital, - - $250,000

ASSETS, $360,615 98, JANUARY 1, 1877.

JAMES L. BENNETT.....

FINANCE AND TRADE.

THURSDAY EVENING, January 18, 1877.

Monetary affairs continue quiet and not materially changed from the at re-typed situation. Some bankers report a slight improvement in the offerings of commercial paper, but whatever increase there may be is certainly not enough to make any impression on the large surplus of loanable funds held by the banks. Some improvement in the commercial demand for money is reported in other cities, Philadelphia and Chicago especially, but as a general rule the money market everywhere is glutted with idle funds. Discount rates here are about steady at the previous rates of 6@8 per cent. on prime commercial paper at the banks; 5@6 per cent. on first class collateral; street rates are nominal at 7@10 per cent. The market for Government bonds continues firm, and Eastern bankers report a steady demand for Government bonds from institutions and trustees. Some parties who are desirous of depositing funds in savings banks find that the first class institutions are so full that they hesitate about opening new accounts of large amounts. Consequently these parties seek investments in Governments at the present low figures, and find that they are likely to yield a fair return for their money. The latest reports from London quote silver up to 57⅞@57⅝d per ounce. At the New York equivalent, the bullion in the trade dollar has a gold value to-day of $0.9843; that in a 412½ grain dollar, $0.9668, and that in two halves, four quarters or ten dimes, $0.9042. Greenbacks are worth 94¼@94¾ per cent. of gold. In local stocks and securities little is done outside of private transactions, affording no basis for market quotations. We give below the latest Eastern quotations on leading railway securities of this vicinity, in some of which, it will be seen, a slight decline has taken place and in others a slight advance:

	Bid. Asked.		Bid. Asked.
A V R R 7's⇔ 104½	105	Erie & Pitts'g.	75
A V R R 6's⇔ 89	90	E & P pf 7's.	95
A V R R 1st 6	45½ 46	E & P con 7's.	85
C & P 1st ex.	93½ 93¾	P A Conn 1st	5 12
4 Pa. consol 1st	94 95	P A Conn 7's	103½
C & P 5th ⇔	104	P., F. W & C.	
P R R stock	47¼ 47¾	Ry stk	101
P R R 1st m bds	116	Do 1st m	117
P R R gt c	107	Do 2d mtge	102½
P R R gt m	107¾ 108	Do 3d mtge	94
P R R 4 c	96 97	Do 4th mtge	85¼
Ol C & i 7's	80 82	Do 7's	49 54
P L & B 1st 7's	90	West Penn	30
A L & S 1st 7's	80½	" Pgh bds	70

—The various causes which have been stated as likely to lead to fluctuations in the price of silver are not, with one exception, interinsic to the metal itself, but are the results of legislation and in one case to violent changes in monetary systems. This cause is the supposed intention of the German Government to sell silver to an unknown amount, estimated by other authorities at $75,000,000. A second reason is the uncertain amount which our American mines produce, or to speak more correctly, the wild estimate which have been made of their probable production. A third reason is as to the absorption of silver by India; and a fourth, the uncertain attitude of the Latin Union in regard to resumption. Of these four reasons, only the second—in regard to the production of the American mines, is inherent to the metal itself, the others being purely matters of legislation as to the uses of silver. This legislation, so far as is shown by facts, is a result of caprice or speculation, not measures made necessary by circumstances attending the production of silver. England and Germany, holding the bonds of all the world for fixed amounts, have pursued and still advocate a policy to advance the value of the money in which these bonds must ultimately be paid.

On the other hand, the increasing use of silver coin in this country, and the favorable attitude of many countries toward the bi-metallic standard of currency, are good reasons for expecting that when these questions are fully decided that silver will resume its old steadiness of value. There is no such variation in the production of this metal as to cause it to fluctuate widely in value. Had gold been suddenly demonetized by one of the principal governments of the world, with an apparent tendency of other nations to follow that example, there is no doubt that it would have fluctuated as widely as silver has; in fact, as we have already pointed out, a great share of the fluctuation of silver was attributable to the change that has taken place during the past year in the purchasing power of gold. We do not think that the silver question is by any means settled as yet; but we believe it likely that the careful examination of the subject now going on by this and other countries, will show that our silver production may yet be utilized for monetary purposes.

—The movements in certain manufacturing interests of this country for the exportation of their surplus products to Europe with a great success so far. It is a noticeable fact that the industries having a good export trade are now the busiest. Among manufacturers of agricultural implements, rifles and hard ware there is a degree of activity in marked contrast with the dullness which prevails among blast furnaces. The cotton exportation is extending to all parts of the world, including India—an old market of American cotton—and South American countries, and it is growing rapidly. From New York there were exported in 1876 as many as 74,456 packages, against 41,008 in 1875, the average of the five preceding years being 16,381 packages. Boston is also exporting freely. The result is that the cotton mills have received a wonderful jog, and some few of those in New England were obliged to run on extra time. Exportation of leather goods is increasing, and that of leather, a new feature, is now marked. The business has been stimulated, and idle factories of boots and shoes are starting up in consequence of contracts for the foreign trade. The paper manufacturers are also doing well. When our iron and steel interests get into position for sending to foreign markets the surplus of their productive capacity which this country cannot take, we may look for the revival of the same activity among them.

—The Philadelphia *Ledger* says: The bank statement of averages for the past week, as compared with that of the previous week, is not as satisfactory as could be desired. The loans show a decrease of $102,417, the reserve a decrease of $170,247, national bank notes a decrease of $14,193, due from banks a decrease of $195,696, and deposits a decrease of $941,287. There was again a further increase in specie of $469,209, but in due to banks of $605,750, and in circulation of $20,588. The more important lines to bankers, of loans, reserve, deposits, &c., show decrease. The business at bank during the week fell off materially, as shown by the clearings, which decreased $8,287,808. The balances were less than during the previous week by $818,171 The situation, however, is without special feature. Money is rather more in demand, but the banks are in condition to meet the requirements of their customers in their legitimate business offerings. Money rates are steady.

—Interest rates in the leading money markets of the world are now quoted as follows:

	Bank rate Percent.	Open market. Per c nt.
New York	6@6	4 @6
London	2	1¼@1¾
Paris	2½	2½
Amsterdam	3	2½
Hamburg	4½	3½
Berlin	4½	3½
Frankfort	4½	3½
Vienna and Trieste	5	4½
Madrid, Cadiz and Barcelona	6	5
Lisbon and Oporto	6	5
St. Petersburg	6	6
Brussels	2½	2½
Turin, Florence and Rome	5	5
Leipsic	4½	4½
Genoa	5	5
Geneva	5	5
New York	5 @6	
Valentia	5	
Copenhagen	5	5

—The following are yesterday's quotations in gold for coins and bullion:

	Buying.	Selling.
American trade dollars	$ 99	$ 1 00
American silver (half and quarter dollars)	99¼	99¾
American silver (dimes and half dimes)	94	94¾
Mexican dollars, old style	1 01	1 02
Mexican dollars, new style	1 01	1 02
English silver	4 80	4 86
Five francs	93	93
Thalers	69	71
English sovereigns	4 86	4 90
Twenty francs	3 90	3 94
Spanish doubloons	16 20	16 60
Mexican doubloons	15 55	15 65
Silver bars (99 fine)	1 24	1 24⅝
Fine gold bars	Par@¼	prem.

—In a financial review of 1876 the London *Times* shows that notwithstanding the heavy exports of gold from England to the United States, the net result of the year is a large gain in the store of the Bank of England. The exports to all countries were $8,735,000, while the imports were $58,405,065, and the balance "in" for 1876 was $27,670,000.

—The following is the report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

Stocks.	Bid.	Asked.	Sales.
Pennsylvania Central	....	....	48¾
Reading	....	....	48¾
United Cos. of N. J.	140	140¾	10
Pa. & Ft. Wayne & Buffalo	95¾	96	100
Lehigh Valley	....	49¾	....
Allegheny Valley	39	40	....
Central Transportation	....	39	....

(By Associated Press.)

Gold Closed at 100¾.

MONEY.

NEW YORK, January 18.—Money easy at 6@6 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 5@6 per cent. Customs receipts $293,000 The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $305,000. Clearings $30,000,000. Sterling 483½@485.

GOLD.

Gold opened at 100¾, fell off to 100⅝ and closed at 100¾. Carrying rates 4@6 per cent. Silver at London 58 pence per ounce; here bar silver is 133½ bid in greenbacks and 125½@125¾ bid in gold; silver coin 125¼.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Government bonds closed active and strong. Railroad bonds dull and lower in some instances; St. Paul consolidated sinking fund's fell off to 81 and Rock Island 8 sevens to 108½; Southern Pacific of Missouri advanced to 74½. State securities quiet. The stock market opened from ¼ to ½ per cent. higher than at the close yesterday, but soon the general list began to decline, and by noon prices fell 1½ per cent. for New Jersey Central and Illinois Central, and ½@¾ for the remainder of the list, the latter Delaware, Lackawanna and Western and St. Paul preferred; Lackawanna declined ¾ and Michigan Central ½. After midday there was an advance of from ¼ to ¾ per cent., the latter Lake Shore; Pacific Mail was exceptionally strong and advanced 1¾ per cent., the St. Paul preferred fell off ¼ per cent. In the last hour the market was irregular. Cleveland and Pittsburgh advanced 1 per cent. and New Jersey Central ⅜; Illinois Central fell off ½ per cent. and St. Paul ⅜; the remainder of the list being unchanged. Transactions 165,000 shares, of which 18,000 were Pacific Mail 17,000 Western Union, 21,000 St. Paul, 24,000 Lake Shore, 7,000 Michigan Central, 9,000 Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, 6,000 New Jersey Central and 3,000 Illinois Central. The following were the closing quotations:

STOCKS.

West. Union Tel	75¾	C., C., C. & I	37
Quicksilver	14¾	Sock Island	101
Do. preferred	66¾	St. Paul	40¾
Mariposa	6	Do. preferred	48¾
Do. preferred	6¼	Toledo & Wabash	5
Pacific Mail	25	Ft. Wayne	90
Adams Express	102	Terre Haute	3
Wells-Fargo Ex	81½	Do. preferred	14
American Ex	57¾	Chicago & Alton	90
United States Ex	56	Do. preferred	109½
New York Central	102¾	Ohio & Mississippi	6¾
Erie	9¾	Del & Lack	74¾
Do. preferred	17¾	Atlantic & P. Tel	7
Harlem	129	Missouri Pacific	101
Do. preferred	133	Atlantic & P. pref	2
Michigan Central	48¾	Indiana Central	5¾
Panama	122	Bur & Quincy	117
Lake Shore	101	Hannibal & St. Joe	15
Illinois Central	97¾	Union Pac. stock	60
Cleve. and Pitts	92	Central Pac bds	109¾
Northwestern	35¾	Union Pac. bds	103¾
Do. preferred	56¾	Do. land grants	101¾
N. J. Central	94½	Do S. F. bonds	95

GOVERNMENTS.

U. S. coupons, 1881	114½	New 6's	113¾
" 5's, 1881	109¾	New 4½'s	103¾
" 5's, 1885, new	118¾	10-40's, registered	113
" 5's, 1887	118¾	10-40's, coupons	113¾
" 5-20's, 1868	117¾	Currency 6's	122½

STATE BONDS.

Tennessee, old	65¾	Virginia, old	39
Tennessee, new	45	Missouri 6's	101
Virginia, new	39		

LONDON, January 18, 5 P. M.—The bullion in the Bank of England decreased £643,000 the past week. The amount withdrawn on balance to-day is £51,000. The proportion of bank reserve to liabilities is 44½ per cent. Con. 95 9-16. United States bonds—5-20's, 1865, 105½; do 1867, 109; 10-40's, 109½; new 5's, 107. Railroad securities—New York Central 99; Erie 9½; preferred 17.

PARIS, January 18.—The specie in the Bank of France increased 26,103,000 francs the past week. Rentes 106 francs 55 centimes.

FRANKFORT, January 18.—United States bonds—New 5's 102½.

BERLIN, January 18.—The weekly statement of the Imperial Bank of Germany shows an increase in specie of 18,458,000 marks.

NEW ORLEANS, January 18.—Gold 100¾@100¾. Sight exchange on New York ½ per cent. discount. Sterling exchange 515.

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } THURSDAY, January 18, 1877. }

The general markets to-day were encouragingly active, almost all the dealers experiencing themselves contented with the state of trade, especially in view of the season and the hard times. The receipts of goods were reported light all round and the sales in small lots. The frequency of purchases, however, makes up in a good degree for the smallness of the sales. Country dealers and others buy on the hand-to-mouth principle, merely enough to meet the actual demands upon them. On the whole, prices remain about as they were yesterday.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce in this city since our last are as follows:

Flour, bbls	900	Cheese, bxs	149
Wheat, bush	2,068	Hides, lbs	1,200
Barley, bus	1,821	Bacon, lbs	25
Oats, bush	2,691	Potatoes, bush	20
Rye, bush	436	Hay, tons	205
Corn, bush	1,228	Apples, bbls	48

The quotations given in the following reports are prices paid in wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales, dealers will charge an advance. Prices of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free in car to-day.

Grain, Flour and Feed.

GRAIN—The grain trade to-day was good, but there was no change in any of the prices. Wheat remains firm at the following figures, the receipts being very light: Prime red wheat $1 40@1 43 ⅌ bushel; prime amber $1 43@1 45; prime white $1 48@1 50. Old corn is out of the market. The only remarks to be made on the new are that it is to-day a little easier, as a good deal is being sold on the street, and when navigation opens, as is expected soon, that will be thrown on the market, which will affect prices. Sales to-day were mainly at little difficulty on this account. The quotations for mixed ear are 43@43½c ⅌ bushel; prime shelled 51@53c. Oats are in good supply and quotable at 36@37c ⅌ bushel for prime white mixed 37@38c. Rye is quoted to-day at 75@76c. Barley quiet at 83c for choice; 75@80c for fair to prime and 55@70c for low grades. $1 00 low grades 60c; market dull; jobbing sales at the counter to advance.

FLOUR—In flour, the market is still strong and tending upwards. The receipts are light and choice brands will be thrown on the hands presently. We quote No. 1 white wheat flour at $8 25@8 50; No. 1 amber do $8 00; prime red wheat flour $7 75; Wisconsin $6 50@7 00; Minnesota $7 75@8 00; fancy St. Louis $9 25@9 75; patent do $10 25; Graham flour $6 75; Supreme No. 2 $5 00; buckwheat $6 75@7 00 ⅌ barrel; kegs $3 75@4 00; rye flour $4 75@5 00 ⅌ barrel.

HAY—The hay market remains quiet, the supply being well up to the demand. We quote: Wagon $12 00@13 00 ⅌ ton; No. 1 timothy $13 00@15 00; No. 2 timothy $11 00@12 00 from Allegheny Island; Prairie—Upland $ 10 00@13 00; mixed $9 00@10 00.

MILL FEED—Owing to the scarcity of wheat and to the little grinding done by local millers, mill feed is reported scarce, and we quote as follows: Bran $14 00@15 00 ⅌ ton at wholesale; $16 00@17 00 in a jobbing way; middlings $25 00@25 00; seconds and shipstuffs $16 00@18 00; chopped feed $20 00@23 00.

Country Produce.

The produce market showed some activity to-day, but nothing to boast of. The demand was light, this not being a time when people are out often can indulge in the toothsome produce of the barnyard and the orchard. The receipts were called small, but abundantly sufficient for the demand. Prices of many articles of this trade are therefore rather nominal than real, and they remain unchanged for the day.

APPLES—Good cooking and eating apples were in moderate demand only at $1 50@2 00 ⅌ barrel; lower grades $1 00@1 50.

APPLE BUTTER—Fair quality sold with sales at 40c ⅌ gallon.

BEESWAX—Is quoted at 20@30c ⅌ lb.

BRAN—Are in fair demand at $2 00@2 25 for prime white navy. Lima beans, new crop, $4 50 ⅌ bushel.

BROOM CORN—Prices unchanged. Choice hurl 6@6c, as to quality; brush that will work up 3@4c; medium grades 4@4½c; red-tipped 3@4c; inferior not desired; crooked in fair demand at about 33 per cent. off the prices given, as to quality.

HIDES—Dull and quoted at 3@3½c ⅌ lb.

SPEAKER DRIED CORN—Fair supply and quiet at 4c ⅌ lb.

HOMINY—Demand moderate at $3 75@4 00 ⅌ barrel.

NUTS—Hickory nuts dull at 75c@$1 00 per bushel; shellbarks a little scarce, and quoted at $1 50@2 25.

ONIONS—Still scarce and prices firm at $2 75@3 00 ⅌ bbl.

HONEY—California comb 23c ⅌ lb; home honey 22c.

CRANBERRIES—Supply sufficient and market dull. The quotations are $10 00 ⅌ bbl; $3 25@3 50 ⅌ bushel.

LIMES—Prices range from $3 50@4 50, barrel included, for common; $5 00@5 50 for extra choice.

DRIED FRUITS—Market decidedly slow, hardly enough being done to fix quotations. We quote cored apples at 4@5c ⅌ lb for prime; dried peaches 10@12c@ evaporated peaches 15@20@ 23c per pound according to quality.

DRIED PEAS—The demand is good for new crop at $1 50@1 60 ⅌ bushel.

BUTTER—There is still a pretty large stock of prime and lower grade butter on hand, and the inquiry for it not the most lively. Leading dealers agree on the following quotations: Choice solid packed 15@17c per lb; do roll 22@23c; choice dairy rolls 20@23c.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—Is quoted at $3 50@3 75 per cwt for prime; $2 25@2 50 per bbl.

CHEESE—Market quiet and no changes to report. We quote prime Ohio factory at 14@14½c in round lots; jobbing at 15@15½c. New York Goshen 15@16c; in round lots; 16@16½c in a jobbing way. Young American 15c; nutmeg 17c.

SEEDS—There is as yet but little inquiry. The asking rates from store are: Cloverseed $8 00@9 00 ⅌ bushel or 62 lbs; timothy seed $2 00@2 15.

EGGS—Strictly fresh eggs are still very scarce, and to-day sold readily at 31@32c ⅌ dozen. Packed there were no sales. Ducks, live, 45@50c ⅌ pair; dressed 12@13c ⅌ lb. Geese 50@60c each.

POTATOES—Inquiries to-day were not more numerous than yesterday, and the prices remain the same. We quote from store: Prime peachblows $1 25@1 30 ⅌ bushel; early rose $1 20@1 25; Peerless $1 20. Sweet potatoes were out of market to-day.

VINEGAR—There is scarcely anything doing. We quote nominally 17@19c ⅌ gallon for prime country cider; 14@15c for heavy and weak.

WOOL—Common fleece, ⅌ lb, 33c; ¼ to full blood, ⅌ lb, 33@35c; combing, ⅌ lb, 34c; tub washed, ⅌ lb, 38c; city pullings, ⅌ lb, 25@30c; unwashed, ⅌ lb, 18@20c.

Provisions.

Provisions to-day were active, dealers reporting a pretty good business. The ruling prices are as follows:

BACON—Shoulders, new, 8¼c per pound; short ribsides 10¼c; clear sides 11c.

CUT AND CURED MEATS—Hams are firm at 12½c ⅌ lb for extra sugar-cured. Breakfast bacon rules easy, and we quote sugar-cured at 12½c. Sugar-cured shoulders were steady at 9¼c. Dried beef, sugar-cured, was firm at 15c. Beef tongues, per dozen, are quoted at $6 75.

LARD—The market is quiet and strong at the following quotations: Kettle lard, tierces, 12c; ½ bbls 12¼c; pails, 12¾c. Refined lard—Tierces 12¼c; ½ pails 13c; 20-lb pails 13¼c; 3-lb tin pails 14½c; 5-lb do, 14¾c; 6-lb do, 14¾c; 10-lb pails 14¾c; 3-lb do 14¾c.

LARD OIL—Cincinnati oil, double extra $1 00@1 05 ⅌ gal; extra No. 1, 78@85c; No. 2, 60@65c; winter strained 85c ⅌ gal; No. 1, 70@80c; No. 2 60@65c.

MESS PORK—Following are the ruling quotations: $18 50@19 00 ⅌ bbl. The market is reported quiet and firm.

TALLOW—We quote chandlers' city rendered, at 9@9¼c ⅌ lb; country do 7½@8c ⅌ lb; rough 5½@6c ⅌ lb.

Groceries.

The grocery trade was fair. As in most of the other departments of the general markets, the sales were small but frequent. We make a few changes in the prices below, standard sugars having declined ⅛c, as was expected yesterday, and cut loaf ¼c:

Green Coffees.	⅌ lb.	*Sugars.*	⅌ lb.
Fancy Rio	25¼c	Standard A	11⅝c
Choice Rio	24½c	Standard B	11⅛c
Prime Rio	23½c	Do. extra C	11c
Good Rio	21 c	Extra C—yel.	9¾@10¼c
Ordinary Rio	20 c	C—yellow	9¼@ 9¾c
Java, mats	30½c	Franklin, B. 10's	12c@ 00c
Roasted Coffees.		New Orleans	8¾@10½c
Rio, in papers	28 @29 c	Cut Loaf	12½c
24 grades do.	25 @26½c	Crushed	12½c
Rio, in bulk	28½c	Powdered	12¼c
Java, in papers	32 c	Granulated	12 c
Java, in bulk	30½c	*Molasses.*	⅌ gal.
Teas.		Strictly ch. N. O.	60@62c
Young Hyson	25c@1 00	Prime	55@57c
Gunpowder	35c@ 90	*Syrups.*	
Imperial	30c@ 80	Ex. white drips	61@65c
Japan	25c@ 85	Sugar drips	55c
Oolong	25c@ 85	Lower grades	25@40c
Fancy do	1 00	*Starch.*	⅌ lb.
Souchong	28c@ 75	Pearl	3½@8 c
Spices (whole).		Silver gloss	9½c
Cloves	45 c	Corn	7½@8¼c
Allspice	17 c	Chicago gloss	8 c
Cassia	30@31 c	Chicago corn	8½c
Nutmegs	@1 15	*Rice.*	
Pepper	18 c	Choice Carlin	6¼@7 c
Soaps.		Louisiana	5½@6¼c
Irish soap, ⅌ box	$4 25	*Molasses.*	
S. S. Star, ⅌ box	5 75	Bl-carb, in kegs	5½c
Babbitt's best, ⅌ box	6 75	Bl-carb, in bbls	5½c
Gold do	6 25	Bl-carb, in papers	6¼c
Extra olive do	3 50	*Candles.*	
Pa. Ky. City, ⅌ box	4 50	Star, full weight	16 c
German mottled	6c7 c	Stearine	11@13 c
Californ'a, ⅌ box	4 50	Mould	12 c

FISH—Following are the ruling quotations at which sales are made:

	Per bbl.		Per bbl.
Extra No. 1 Mess mackerel	$27 00	Round herring	$5 00
Extra No. 1 shore	26 00	Split Labrador do	7 50
Extra No. 1 bay	17 00	Lake Pick., ½ bbls	3 50
Extra No. 2 large	12 00	Lake Herring, do	3 00
No. 2 medium	12 50	Lge Georges cod-fish, ⅌ lb	6 @7c
Large No. 3	12 00	Medium Georges	5½c
No. 3 medium	9 00	Halibut, ⅌ lb	12½c
Whitefish, ½ bbls	5 75	No. 1 Bay mackerel	9 50
Lake Trout, do	4 50	Scaled herring do	40

FOREIGN FRUITS—The market is quiet and prices rule as below. We quote layer raisins, new, per box, $2 25; London layers, new, $2 75; Muscatel $2 25; mat Valentias, new, 10c ⅌ lb; mat; Valentias, new, 10c ⅌ lb; Sultanas 17c. Dates 8@8½c ⅌ lb. Currants 7½c. Citron 20c. Prunes 9½c. Almonds—Languedoc 23c; do shelled 32c; do Princess 37c; do Jordan 30c, do Ivica 22c. Walnuts—Naples 20c; Marbot 14c; Grenoble 16c; Smyrna figs, new, 14c. Brazil nuts 10c. Maccaroni 11@12c. Dates 10c. Lemons—Palermo, ⅌ box, $1 00. Oranges—Florida $3 50 ⅌ hundred. Cocoanuts $7 00 ⅌ hundred.

CANNED GOODS—No change in prices. We quote green peas, 2 ⅌ cans, $2 00@2 25; raspberries do $1 85; strawberries do $1 85; pineapples do $1 30@1 40; peaches, 2 ⅌ cans, $2 20@2 40; blackberries do, $1 50; peaches, 3 ⅌ cans per doz, $2 25; tomatoes do, $1 00; pickles, bbls, $5 25; half-bbls, $3 75.

Petroleum

January 18.—That the oil market is dull is no doubt as well known to our readers as ourselves. That being the situation, we have no improvement to note either in value or sales, the rates for refined in this market to the home trade being 24@26c ⅌ gallon. It may be proper to note that refiners manifest no anxiety to sell or force the market. Prices having declined to the 24c figure, they have reasonable ground to look for a similar reduction here. At New York the market was dull and prices rule lower, closing at 23½c for cline of 5c per gallon over the previous day's figures; cases 30@33c. At Baltimore and Philadelphia dullness and inactivity are the most prevailing features of the market. Spot was nominally 26¾c; cases 30@33c; no inquiry for futures.

FREIGHTS, January 18, 6 P. M.—The crude oil market has been steady to-day with an upward tendency. Conduit and United opened at $2 35, advanced to $2 60, then declined to $1 75@1 82½, again advanced to $2 62½@2 65, and off to $2 55@, the present quotation. There were no open bids for Lower Sheffield or United prices. Shipments quiet at about $1 75@3 80 Shipments from the lower district for the 17th 16,627 barrels.

(By Western Union Telegraph.)

OIL CITY, January 18.—The *Derrick* says of yesterday's market: Opening at $1 55⅝, there was an advance to $1 56⅝, followed by a decline to $1 56. It then strengthened and advanced to $1 56¾, weakened and closed firm at $1 56½. The closing quotation is ⅛c below yesterday, with the market more settled and in better shape. Shipments are increasing a little, though the average per day from the river district is only about 18,000 barrels for the month. The amount shipped yesterday was 20,000 barrels. The current price is $3 72½@3 75. Sales 56,000 barrels.

NEW YORK, January 18, closing 17.—There is a dragging market and prices are unsettled while there is no especial pressure to sell, yet buyers could obtain easier terms. Crude in New York delivery: Crude in bulk 104c; in barrels 124c; city margins, 1½c to 2c higher; refined in barrels 20¾c for spot; cases 26@33c. At Philadelphia and Baltimore refined, spot, rules at 26½c.

TITUSVILLE, January 18.—Market quiet at $3 60 bid.

OIL CITY, January 18.—Not much doing; opened at $3 53⅞; no United; shipment $3 70. Market at $3 53⅞@3 56¼. Market quiet; nothing doing; held at $3 60.

TIDIOUTE, January 18.—Market quiet; held at $3 70.

PHILADELPHIA, January 18.—Market quiet; crude 12½c; cases 20c; standard white 26½c. Car sales and no quotable difference.

PARKERS, January 18.—Market quiet and steady, with $3 55 bid for United; no inquiry for shipment; nominally $3 80.

[By Associated Press.]

NEW YORK, January 18.—Petroleum dull and nominal; crude 104c; refined 20¾c; city naptha 18½c.

PHILADELPHIA, January 18.—Petroleum quiet; crude in barrels 10¾@10¾c; refined 26½c.

LIVERPOOL, January 18.—Refined petroleum 1s 9½d; spirits 0s 10½d.

LONDON, January 18.—Refined petroleum 1s 8½d; spirits do 10½d.

ANTWERP, January 18.—Refined petroleum 49¾ francs.

CLEVELAND, January 18.—Petroleum quiet, steady; standard white, 116 degrees test, 27c.

MOVEMENTS OF PETROLEUM.

	Barrels.
Refined shipments, A. V. R. R.	1,021

General Merchandise.

ALCOHOL AND HIGHWINES—We quote alcohol at $2 18@2 20 ⅌ gallon; highwines at $1 10 ⅌ gallon.

BAGS AND BAGGING—There is a fair demand and prices rule as follows: Extra gunny bags 25c; do second-hand 18c; Union bags 24c; American A's 20c; Philadelphia A's 22c; California grain bags 8c; English do 12c; Penn Mill 4 bushel 26c; do 2¼ bushel 20c; do 1 bushel 16c; Kentucky jeans 20c.

BAKING POWDER—Quoted as follows: ¼ lb cans $1 50 ⅌ gross; ½ lb cans $2 75; 1 lb cans $5 50@5 75 ⅌ case=$25 00; ½ lb boxes 400 ⅌ lb. Market steady and demand good.

BRISTLES—It is stated recently that on account of the advance in leather the manufacturers of brushes will increase the price 50 per foot upon all sizes up to 16 inches. The advance which was made then is to still maintained. The market has been quiet to-day, and the prices which we give below are firm. The list of prices are as follows:

	Per foot.		
1 inch wide	9	5 inches wide	$ 57
1¼ inch wide	15	5½ inches wide	62
2 inches wide	21	6 inches wide	69
2½ inches wide	27	7 inches wide	81
3 inches wide	33	8 inches wide	1 05
3½ inches wide	39	10 inches wide	1 17
4 inches wide	45	12 inches wide	1 41
4½ inches wide	51	14 inches wide	1 65

Discount 15 to 25 per cent., as to quality and quantity.

BROOMS—The demand is fair at former prices. The following are jobbing rates as quoted by manufacturers' agents:

No. 1 hurl	$1 50
No. 2 hurl	1 75
No. 3 hurl	2 00
No. 4 hurl	2 25
No. 5 hurl	2 50
No. 6 hurl	2 75
No. 3 carpet	3 25
No. 4 carpet	3 50
No. 5 carpet	3 75
No. 3 fancy parlor	4 00
No. 4 fancy parlor	4 25
Railroad (very choice)	2 75@3 00
Hotel, fine corn (extra heavy)	4 00@5 00
Whisps, 6, 8 and 10 inch	1 00@2 00
Toy brooms	1 25@1 75
Misses' brooms	2 00

RAGS—The market is steady. We quote cotton mixed 2½@2½c ⅌ lb; and woolen 5c.

STOVE POLISH—Sales made at $5 75 ⅌ gross.

SAPOLIO—Cases of 6 dozen, $5 00; hand sapolio, cases of 6 dozen, $4 50.

SALT—The market is steady and unchanged. No 1 sells in car lots at $1 00 per barrel. We quote jobbing prices at $1 15 ⅌ bbl for No. 1; $1 30 for extra do; $1 40 for dairy. Liverpool salt repacked in large sacks of 220 lbs, $2 00@2 10 per sack; dairy salt in small sacks 2½@2 50 ⅌ bbl.

WOODEN WARE—The market is quiet but rather nominal, former quotations being unchanged as follows:

No. 1 tubs ⅌ dozen	$8 50
No. 2 tubs ⅌ dozen	7 50
No. 3 tubs ⅌ dozen	6 50
3-hoop pails ⅌ dozen	2 50
2-hoop pails ⅌ dozen	2 10
Washboard, patent, ⅌ dozen	2 75
Washboards, common, ⅌ dozen	2 00@2 15
Clothes pins, round head, ⅌ box	70
Clothes pins, flat head, ⅌ box	60
⅌ bundle; medium, 52c; double crown, 70c; double medium, $1 05; tissue manilla, 35c@ $2 65 ⅌ ream; dry goods, 70c@$5 50; manilla, 10@11c ⅌ lb; No. 2 do, 8@9c; hard ware do, 4@5c; tea do, 8@10c; flour sacks (4-bbl), $35 00@ 40 00 ⅌ 1,000; do (½-bbl), $20 00@22 00; grocers' bags (1 lb), $1 80 ⅌ 1,000; 2 lbs do, $2 70; 5 lbs do, $3 70; 10 lbs do, $5 00; 20 lbs do, $6 50; 50 lbs do, $10 50.	

Provisions.

PROVISIONS—Inquiries to-day were not more numerous than yesterday, and the prices remain the same. We quote from store: Prime peachblows $1 25@1 30 ⅌ bushel; early rose $1 20@1 25; Peerless $1 20. Sweet potatoes were out of market to-day.

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WOOL—Common fleece, ⅌ lb, 33c; ¼ to full blood, ⅌ lb, 33@35c; combing, ⅌ lb, 34c; tub washed, ⅌ lb, 38c; city pullings, ⅌ lb, 25@30c; unwashed, ⅌ lb, 18@20c.

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LARD—The market is quiet and strong at the following quotations: Kettle lard, tierces, 12c; ½ bbls 12¼c; pails, 12¾c. Refined lard—Tierces 12¼c; ½ pails 13c; 20-lb pails 13¼c; 3-lb tin pails 14½c; 5-lb do, 14¾c; 6-lb do, 14¾c; 10-lb pails 14¾c; 3-lb do 14¾c.

LARD OIL—Cincinnati oil, double extra $1 00@1 05 ⅌ gal; extra No. 1, 78@85c; No. 2, 60@65c; winter strained 85c ⅌ gal; No. 1, 70@80c; No. 2 60@65c.

MESS PORK—Following are the ruling quotations: $18 50@19 00 ⅌ bbl. The market is reported quiet and firm.

TALLOW—We quote chandlers' city rendered, at 9@9¼c ⅌ lb; country do 7½@8c ⅌ lb; rough 5½@6c ⅌ lb.

Groceries.

The grocery trade was fair. As in most of the other departments of the general markets, the sales were small but frequent. We make a few changes in the prices below, standard sugars having declined ⅛c, as was expected yesterday, and cut loaf ¼c:

Green Coffees.	⅌ lb.	*Sugars.*	⅌ lb.
Fancy Rio	25¼c	Standard A	11⅝c
Choice Rio	24½c	Standard B	11⅛c
Prime Rio	23½c	Do. extra C	11c
Good Rio	21 c	Extra C—yel.	9¾@10¼c
Ordinary Rio	20 c	C—yellow	9¼@ 9¾c
Java, mats	30½c	Franklin, B. 10's	12c@ 00c
Roasted Coffees.		New Orleans	8¾@10½c
Rio, in papers	28 @29 c	Cut Loaf	12½c
24 grades do.	25 @26½c	Crushed	12½c
Rio, in bulk	28½c	Powdered	12¼c
Java, in papers	32 c	Granulated	12 c
Java, in bulk	30½c	*Molasses.*	⅌ gal.
Teas.		Strictly ch. N. O.	60@62c
Young Hyson	25c@1 00	Prime	55@57c
Gunpowder	35c@ 90	*Syrups.*	
Imperial	30c@ 80	Ex. white drips	61@65c
Japan	25c@ 85	Sugar drips	55c
Oolong	25c@ 85	Lower grades	25@40c
Fancy do	1 00	*Starch.*

CITY MATTERS.

For seventy-five cents per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is desired.

Weather Report.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. S'G. SERV., ROOM 73, FIRST NATIONAL BANK, PITTSBURGH, PA., January 18, 1877.

Time.	Bar	Th'r	Hum	Dir.	—Wind.— Miles. 1 hour	Veath
7 A. M.	30.37	21	100	N. E.	2	Foggy.
2 P. M.	30.37	31	59	E	4	Foggy.
9 P. M.	30.339	34	89	Calm	.....	Cloudy

Mean barometer....30.388 Highest thermom... 37
Mean thermom.... 30.5 Lowest thermom.... 20

Western University.

A course of weekly lectures on experimental chemistry will be delivered in the lecture room of the Western University, beginning Thursday, January 18th, at 8 p. m., by Francis C. Phillips, Professor of Chemistry. The course will include about twenty lectures, which will be fully illustrated by experiments. Fee for the course $5.

Says He Was Robbed

Officer Heaps on Wednesday night arrested, at the Union Depot, an intoxicated and disorderly individual who gave the name of William Reeber. He was from the West and had purchased a ticket for New York. At the station house he claimed to have been robbed of some $400. If true, nothing could be learned concerning it.

Successfully Launched.

After much difficulty the Clipper Boat House was yesterday successfully launched upon the Allegheny. On Tuesday the high water put the house, together with a mass of ice, some fifteen feet up the bank in the vicinity of Fourteenth street. A towboat had attempted to draw it off but without success, and the launch was effected by the use of a hydraulic jack owned by Mackintosh, Hemphill & Co.

A Small Blaze in Allegheny.

About noon yesterday an alarm was sounded from box 17, located at the corner of Western and Irwin avenues, Allegheny. The engines repaired to the spot and were directed to the house of Mr. Hirsh, No. 33 Beech street, but no fire could be discovered. Upon inquiry it was learned that when the cook was preparing dinner in the kitchen, a pan of gravy upset in the fire and the blaze communicated to the mantel piece. The flames were soon smothered out.

Alleged Pickpockets Arrested.

Yesterday morning Constable Murphy proceeded to the First ward school building, Allegheny, and arrested one of the scholars named McDonald. After placing him in the lock-up, he effected the arrest of a companion named Woods, who was found in a billiard saloon. The boys were charged with snatching a pocket book from Mrs. Walters, of Western avenue, while she was purchasing some articles in the market on Saturday evening. The youths will have a hearing this morning.

A Highway Assault.

At an early hour yesterday morning, as Mr. H. Caldwell, resident of the South Side, was crossing the Tenth street bridge on his way to his place of business, he was assaulted in the middle of the bridge, with the evident design of robbery, by a man lurking in a crouching position, whom he passed by without suspecting him to be in ambush with a sinister purpose. Mr. Caldwell felt himself suddenly seized behind by the neck, when quickly shaking off the hold of his assailant, he turned and surprised him in turn with two blows well delivered. The ruffian finding he had caught the wrong customer, broke away and dashing off in the opposite direction, made good his escape. Two policemen were seen below the bridge coolly ensconsed in a shanty above the railroad track warming themselves. Complaint is made that the bridge is not well policed.

The Hempfield Railroad.

As announced in these columns the Hempfield Railroad was put up at United States Marshal's sale yesterday afternoon, to satisfy the claim of Edward Fox, amounting to $85,000. The Marshal read the levy and notices and began the sale promptly at the hour designated. Mr. Kirker, attorney for the plaintiff, was the first bidder, and started with $5,000. A stranger, who refused to give his name to the reporter, then bid $10,000, and in a few minutes the property was up to $85,006. The only bidders were Mr. Kirker, Vice President Keyser, of the Baltimore and Ohio road, the stranger mentioned above, and another gentleman unknown in this locality. The $85,000 bid was Mr. Kirker's, and as it was apparent that no more could be obtained and the Marshal was tired of "knocking down" the road, the attorney moved the postponement of the sale until Friday, February 23, at two o'clock, which was agreed to and the sale was accordingly adjourned.

Murphy and Local Option.

The *Presbyterian Banner*, in noticing the increasing interest in the temperance movement, remarks:

"We are glad to notice that Mr. Murphy is resolute in his determination to do one thing at a time; and that he will not permit attention to be turned to side issues. Hence he has absolutely refused to allow 'local option' or 'prohibition' to be introduced. His great object is to rescue the drunkard and save the temperate, knowing that he is creating a public sentiment which will at the proper time make itself effectively felt in removing the temptations and incitements to drink. The liquor dealers are greatly alarmed; they evidently begin to feel that their craft is in danger. May the Lord continue to direct and bless the efforts to save the bodies and the souls of those led captive by intemperance, and to prevent those who have not fallen from being led astray.

On the other hand, the *United Presbyterian* intimates that Mr. Murphy made a mistake when he remarked, on being handed a local option petition, that "this movement was not a political machine," and adds: "Some judicious friend has, no doubt, informed him by this time that prohibition is not simply a measure of politics, and that to use means of legal restraint is but one way of showing faith by appropriate and effective work."

The Marriage License Law.

The *Presbyterian Banner* strongly urges the passage of the marriage license law now before the Legislature. The State now exacts a penalty from ministers for marrying a minor, but has no form of license whereby the age of the parties can be ascertained, and the consent of parents or guardians legally secured. To remedy this defect, and protect ministers from imposition, the passage of a license law, similar to that now in force in Ohio, is asked. The *Banner* adds:

We hope that clergymen and others in different parts of the State will take an interest in this matter, that the people may be protected from that class of clergymen always ready to marry persons who may present themselves, in any respect to age or to the claims of parents and guardians; and that ministers who desire to act obediently to the law of the State, and not be exposed to censure, may also be saved from the impositions so often practised upon them by parties seeking to be married. Our lawmakers at Harrisburg will do good service to the public by enacting a carefully prepared law of the kind indicated. In addition to the considerations already given, such a law would be of great advantage, in preserving an accurate record of marriages. During and after the late war many widows were subjected to great inconvenience in obtaining pensions, owing to the difficulty of procuring proper marriage records.

P., W. & K. Railroad

The following is the text of a bill just introduced in the West Virginia Legislature relative to a railroad which, if completed, would be of some benefit to Pittsburgh, but which seems to be all on paper:

1. The County Court of Brooke county and the Board of Commissioners of Ohio county are respectively authorized and empowered to give, transfer and assign the stock now held or hereafter acquired by them or their respective counties in the Pittsburgh, Wheeling and Kentucky Railroad Company, and the debts, claims and liens against said railroad company, and its property which are now held or may be hereafter acquired by the said court or board or their respective counties, to such persons, in such manner and upon such considerations, terms conditions as to said court and board respectively may seem most for the interest of their respective counties, and are authorized and empowered to contract, to give and transfer such stock, debts and liens and claims, when the said railroad shall be completed from the city of Wheeling to the Steubenville bridge, to such persons as shall have furnished the means for such competition, and said court and board respectively, if deemed by them desirable, may, for the greater security of any persons subscribing money for the purpose of such completion, transfer such stock, liens, claims and debts to trustees, to be transferred by said trustees when said road shall be completed as aforesaid, to such persons as shall have furnished the means for such completion. And such court and board are respectively authorized and empowered to exchange said debts, claims and liens for stock in said company. They are further authorized to dispose of said stock and said debts, claims and liens now held and hereafter acquired, in any other manner which may seem to them for the interest of their respective companies.

2. The purchase of said debts, liens and claims by said court and board respectively is hereby legalized, and said court and board are hereby authorized to purchase or assume to purchase other debts, liens or claims against said railroad company or it property when it shall seem to them for the interest of their respective counties to do so.

WAIFS FROM THE WRECKS.

Notes of the Late Disasters—The Coal and River Men Estimating their Losses and Gathering Up the Remnants—Episodes of the Floods.

With characteristic energy the coal and river men have pulled off their coats, gone to work to repair their losses, and gather up what has been left wholly or partly uninjured by the flood. The heavy fog of yesterday morning interfered to some extent with the commencement of the work, but later in the day several large tows were got ready for lower ports. As the river is falling rapidly the river men must bestir themselves to prevent many craft from being beached. As there is little else transpiring on the wharves we resume our

NOTES OF THE LATE DISASTER.

Certain parties occupying river lands where boats have been stranded, propose, it is said, claiming salvage from the owners. This is a despicable business, and we trust it will not be prosecuted.

On Saturday last Mr. Duffy, station house keeper at Glenwood, ordered a load of coal, but on Sunday morning, to use his own words, "I found seven thousand bushels dumped at my door, and I sent word to the dealer that he needn't fill my order."

The ice at Mingo creek is fearfully gorged, and may do some damage to the trestle of the Pittsbrgh, Virginia and Charleston Railroad when it runs out.

The coal works of the Stone Bros., Pool No. 2, will be started upon Monday. The tipple at these works can be adjusted to high or low water, and is not damaged in the least. The Stone towboat pulled the Jack Gumbert to the McKeesport wharf on Sunday morning, and she is now alongside their fleet, and will go on the docks of the Messrs. Stone for repairs. Some of the "ribs" of the Gumbert are broken.

The people at Moss Side removed their furniture to the hill top, when the flood came and passed two nights in the woods around blazing bonfires, the women and children being made as comfortable as possible.

Captain John P. Smith's coal tipple, swept away from Greenfield bend, was caught at the American works about a mile below in good condition.

At Beck's Run, opposite Hazelwood, the water rose up to the second story of the houses, and was backed for a considerable distance. Much damage has been done to private property in this locality.

The trestles of the Hays Coal Company, at Six Mile Ferry, are filled in place by loaded coal cars placed within three feet of each other the entire length of the railway.

There is not much ice at the mouth of Street's run. The tipple at the lower works is still hanging but is badly damaged. The river road was submerged and the bridges covered so that travel was suspended on Wednesday.

The Stone Brothers spent over two thousand dollars for cables, and their immense fleets are anchored by cords heavy enough, apparently, to hold them forever. The ropes are run under the railroad tracks and fastened to culverts. Every stronghold was brought into requisition along the banks of the river.

LOSSES OF THE LYNNS.

Lynn & Wood lost one boat load of coal, valued at $1,500. Lynn & Son one nut coal "dinkey," valued at $600. Miller, Lynn & Co. had three flats filled with dust sunk against the shore. They also lost a barge laden with nut coal, worth $1,000. The total loss to firm in which all of the above mentioned parties are interested, according to the statement of young Mr. Lynn, will be $5,000. Lynn & Wood, No. 1, ran the gauntlet of every bridge, gorge and obstructure between here and Marietta, in safety, and there furnished fuel to the Sam Brown.

Foster & Clark lost a coal boat half loaded, one barge, two nut-coal boats and four flats, also, one "dust" boat. Their loss in round numbers will be $10,000. Captain John A. Wood is one-half owner in this firm.

MISCELLANEOUS LOSSES.

The J. C. Risher did not sink at Risher's work. She is not there, having gone down to the city on the first rise. The report reached McKeesport that she had been sunk at Pittsburgh. J. C. Risher, in addition to the heavy losses already reported, had two barges and two boats added by the flood early Wednesday morning. They were carried away from the works; also a lot of lumber, moored at the landing.

The "Yough" ice carried away two more barges laden with coal from the works of William Neel; also, one empty barge. One of the laden barges sunk in going over the dam, and the other went to pieces and became a total wreck by colliding with a pier of the Birmingham bridge. Mr. Neel did not escape as fortunately as he had anticipated.

Robbins & Jenkins, across the river from Coal Valley, lost their tipple house, their pumping boat and an empty barge, but the latter was caught up the river a long way toward making him a liar, or helping him to make one of himself.

The language is strong and not at all polite, but I think I am in my estimate of the injury to pledge-breakers. I say, and repeat, that when you induce a man to sign a pledge, or make a promise which he afterwards breaks, you do him a long way toward making him a liar, or helping him to make one of himself.

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Culp & Gamble's ice is set down at one dust boat.

Stone Bro.'s had their slack tipple slightly damaged, but a new one will likely be erected. Captain John Stone, arrived from Cincinnati, reports that they have lost ten barges and four boats at Cincinnati.

Kinney, Redman & Fawcett seem to have gotten off without any losses.

The five empty and two loaded barges of O'Neill & Co., reported as lost in the Youghiogheny, are all saved.

At three o'clock Wednesday morning one of Horner & Sons' coal boats, in their landing below Saw Mill run, filled and sunk.

INCIDENTS OF SUNDAY'S DISASTERS.

On Sunday evening, about dusk, a barge belong to J. Sharp McDonald, broke loose from Staib's landing, near Monongahela City. The barge was being dropped below some sunken boats at the time, and she went adrift, four men, with a skiff, attempted to land her. While so employed the skiff upset and the men were thrown among the floating ice. They managed to swim towards the shore, where, very fortunately, some men threw out lines and the half-dead men were rescued. Meanwhile the barge kept on down the angry stream, escaping every pier without a pilot. Sharp will telegraph to Cincinnati to have his smart barge tied up and sold.

The crew of the shanty boat of the steamer N. J. Bigley were afloat in the ice for a couple of days without provisions. The boat broke away on Tuesday at two P. M. with David Woodford and Job Beden, from near the mouth of Chartiers creek. They were seen by many while passing. At eight o'clock Wednesday morning, the boat touched the right shore pier of the bridge which swung it toward the bank. A goood Bellaire threw three loaves of bread at the boat, which fortunately were secured and was the first grub the two men had tasted since some hours before they started on the involuntary voyage. The shanty boat was secured a short distance below the bridge. Benden says he met with a hearty reception by the people recognizing him as the "bell team" driver, from the peculiar shape of his big white hat.

STILL ANOTHER.

At six o'clock yesterday morning, when the fog was thick enough to cut in slices with a knife, a disaster took place which results in another loss for W. H. Brown. A coal boat belonging to the firm, and containing about 22,000 bushels of coal, was lying at Brown's landing, South Side. While the steamboat Bengal Tiger was assisting the Tom Dodsworth in getting a coal barge free from a wreck at Risher's Landing, the boat started her engines, but found her wheel was hampered with a cable. This being cast loose, she swung out into the stream, and, straightening up, forged ahead, but before she could be stopped, crushed into the coalboat and split it open. It sank almost instantly.

THE FLOOD UP CHARTIERS CREEK.

The Washington *Reporter* says: The steady rain of Monday afternoon and evening produced a flood in Chartiers creek on Tuesday which did considerable damage to bridges, fencing, etc. The bridge on the road leading out past the country home, near Cook station, was swept away by the high water. There was also a heavy ice gorge in the creek just above the turnpike bridge, near Ewing's mill, which drove the water out over the bottom lands. At various points below there were similar gorges. When the afternoon train from here reached Hastings station it found the track covered with ice to the depth of three or four feet, and a delay of until five o'clock before it could pass, the result being that it could not get beyond Mansfield. The old mill which stood near Hastings station was demolished and swept away, as was the county bridge also which stood a short distance below it.

The bottoms along the Chartiers were overflown on Tuesday, and now ice enough to fill all the ice houses in the county lies scattered over the banks. It ranges from five to twelve inches in thickness.

The ice gorged in many of the streams in Washington county on Tuesday, but with the exception of the carrying away of the county bridge at Cook's mill, we hear of no considerable damage being done.

THE PAN HANDLE RAILROAD.

Trains continue to pass slowly over the Pan Handle Railroad bridge, and steps are being taken to have the arches strengthened at once.

THE COMMERCIAL'S DISPATCHES.

THE ICE AT CAIRO.

CAIRO, January 18.—Very heavy ice in the Ohio river, extending from shore to shore, is being swept along by the current over six miles per hour. A ferryboat and several flatboats, apparently unoccupied, and many skiffs have passed this forenoon. No damage reported here.

FROM STEUBENVILLE TO CINCINNATI.

CINCINNATI, January 18.—The river this morning is fifty-three feet, and rising an inch an hour.

No boats running to-day a Pomeroy.

It has fallen eight inches at Fortsmouth, Point Pleasant, West Virginia.

Ohio and Kanawha both falling slowly. Very little ice in the Onio, and none in the Kanawha.

Catlettsburg, river falling slowly.

Steubenville, river has fallen about three feet. There is now twenty-seven feet, ice nearly all run out.

THE SCHOOL OF DESIGN.

Annual Award of Prizes Yesterday.

The annual examination of the work done by the pupils of the School of Design took place yesterday. There was a large attendance of judges, and an unusual number of art connoisseurs and friends of the institution present. Following is a list of the awards:

PRIZES OF THE SCHOOL OF DESIGN, FOR 1877.

Geometry—Miss B. Duff, No. 1; Miss A. Chambers, No. 2.

Perspective—First class: Miss K. Woods, No. 1; Miss M. Kelly, No. 2. Second class: Miss V. Butler, No. 1; Miss B. Duff, No. 2; Miss V. Rahm, No. 3.

Memory drawing—Miss E. Loomis, No. 1; Miss J. Briggs, No. 2; Miss E. Ferguson, No. 3.

Pencil outline—Miss B. Duff, No. 1; Miss M. Pratt, No. 2; Miss A. Totten, No. 3.

Ornament—Miss B. Duff, No. 1; Miss A. Chambers, No. 2.

Figures in outline—Medal: Miss B. Duff.

Pencil shading—Miss B. Duff, No. 1; Miss M. McElheny, No. 2.

India ink (copies)—Miss B. Duff, No. 1; Miss M. Kelly, No. 2.

Water colors (copies)—Flowers: Miss M. Kelly, No. 1; Miss M. Pratt, No. 2.

Sepia landscapes—Miss. M. Pratt, No. 1; Miss M. Kelly, No. 2; Miss B. Doerflinger, No. 3.

Landscape colors—Miss B. Dales, No. 1; Miss J. Rousseau, No. 2; B. Doerflinger, No. 3.

Diagrams of colors—Miss I. Paul, No. 1; Miss M. Kelly, No. 2.

Special studies—Miss L. Conway, No. 1; Miss J. Briggs, No. 2.

Crayon—Geometrical figures: Miss B. Duff, No. 1; Miss L. Weeb, No. 2.

Groups—Miss M. Woods, No. 1; Miss M. McElheny, No. 2.

Ornament—Miss M. McElheny, medal bronze; Miss V. Butler, No. 2.

Detail figure—Miss M. Kelly No. 1; Miss A. Jamieson, No. 2.

Heads—Misses L. Borland, No. 1; Miss B. Doerflinger, No. 2; Miss M. Kelly, No. 3.

Full lengths—Miss J. Rousseau, medal silver; Mrs. A. M. Pier, No. 2.

Anatomy—Miss J. Rousseau, No. 1; Miss L. Borland, No. 2.

Anatomical drawings—Miss E. Ferguson No. 1; Miss E. Loomis, No. 2; Miss I Briggs, No. 3.

Mechanical Drawing—Miss E. Ferguson, No. 1; Miss E. Loomis, No. 1.

India Ink from Casts—Miss J. Rousseau, No. 1; Miss E. Ferguson, No. 2; Miss J. Briggs, No. 3.

Water Colors from Nature—Miss E Loomis, silver medal; Miss J. Briggs, No. 1; Miss L. Conway, No. 2.

OIL PAINTING.

Groups from Nature—Miss A. Reed, graduates' medal, silver.

School Class—Miss E. Ferguson, silver medal; Miss B. Butler, No. 2; Miss J. Reid, No. 3.

Special copies—Miss M. Woods, No. 1; Miss E. Ferguson, No. 2.

School copies—Miss V. Butler, No. 1; Miss E. Ferguson, No. 2.

MEDALS.

Miss B. Duff, bronze medal for outline of figure.

Miss M. McElheny, bronze medal for ornament, in crayon.

Miss J. Rousseau, silver medal for full length figure.

Miss E. Loomis, silver medal for water colors from nature.

Miss A. Reed, graduate's medal (silver). Miss E. Ferguson, silver medal in school class.

Temperance Pledges.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

Your correspondent, "Carlos," disposes of me very kindly, and in short meter. He says, "her fallacies are so apparent that he who runs may discover them. One of her arguments is something like this: One who has signed Murphy's pledge said to her that he expected about fifty out of three thousand would remain faithful to the end. Mrs. S. takes it for granted that two thousand nine hundred and fifty of them, therefore, are liars, and moralizes accordingly."

I fail to discover the fallacies, perhaps, because I do not run. Now, suppose "Carlos" stope running and stands, or sits, long enough to give serious consideration to my view of the case.

He does not question, but rather seems to admit, the correctness of my informant's estimate of the proportion of pledge-signers who will be pledge-breakers, and it was fifty-nine out of every sixty. Of course all such estimates must be rough guesses, founded on the experience of former temperance movements. It is probably true, that not more than one in sixty of those who have signed temperance pledges have adhered to them; but your correspondent dodges all such data and seems to find in my failure to do so a cause for injury to pledge-breakers. I say, and repeat, that when you induce a man to sign a pledge, or makes a promise which he afterwards breaks, you do him a long way toward making him a liar, or helping him to make one of himself.

The great peculiarity of the fire was the fact that nearly every room in the house was burned, while no flames existed—nothing indeed but smouldering. The fire, therefore, must have passed up through the partitions, and it was only by the most heroic efforts of the firemen that a disastrous conflagration was prevented.

It was impossible to obtain the losses and insurances at this early hour (5 A. M), or give further particulars, but this will be done in our next issue.

WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Preparations for the Fiftieth Anniversary

The close of the present term of the Western Theological Seminary, in Allegheny, will be its fiftieth anniversary. Three years ago it was determined to celebrate this event by appropriate services, and committees were appointed to make the necessary arrangements. The committee to select subjects and speakers has made the following appointments: Address of Welcome, by a member of the Faculty: The Place of the Western Theological Seminary in the Education of the Presbyterian Ministry, by the Rev. George Hill, D.D., of Blairsville, Pa.; the Western Theological Seminary and Home Missions, by the Rev. James A. Reed, of Springfield, Ill.; The Western Theological Seminary and Foreign Missions, by the Rev. John C. Lowrie, D.D., of New York. Opportunities will be given for impromptu addresses by graduates and friends of the institution. A large attendance of the students of former years from all parts of the land, and also of some from heathen lands is expected.

It is not in order to state at this time, that the Rev. C. C. Beatty, D. D., is again making the Seminary the subject of his munificence. "Beatty Hall," is to be taken down and a much larger and better building, to be called "Memorial Hall," is to be erected in its place at his expense. The plan and specifications have been prepared, and in a few days the contract will be given out. Every student will be provided with a room for study, and an adjoining one for sleeping. Nothing will be left undone to secure the health and comfort of those who occupy this spacious and commanding edifice, which will be well lighted and thoroughly ventilated. It is to be ready for the students at the opening of the next term.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

United States District Court—Judge Ketcham.

Edward Stiles, bankrupt, Luzerne county. Order made for final hearing on bankrupt's petition for discharge before Register Willard, on the 26th prox.

James Casey, debtor, Pittsburgh. Debtor adjudged bankrupt on creditor's petition and an order of reference issued and referred to Register Shafer.

Michael Ittel, Jr., bankrupt, Tionesta. Discharged.

H. B. Claflin & Co., of New York, filed a petition for the adjudication in bankruptcy of D. J. Bridge and T. M. Skiles, partners as Bridge & Skiles, of Franklin, Venango county.

Common Pleas No. 1—Judges Sterrett and Collier.

Samuel S. Brown vs. owners of the "Wild Duck;" action for damages for loss of coal and barges occasioned by a collision on the Kentucky line of the Ohio river. On trial.

Elizabeth Beebe vs. the Insurance Company of North America; action on a fire insurance policy. Jury out.

Jackson Lowrie and wife vs. Jacob Maple; action on a promissory note for $250. On trial.

Common Pleas No. 2—Judge Ewing and Kirkpatrick.

The breach of promise case of Sarah Miller vs. Judy J. Sallie, was concluded yesterday. The main facts are these: The defendant, a widower with six children children courted the plaintiff, who is a milliner in the borough of Sharpsburg. An engagement was made in January, 1875, and the marriage was to have taken place on a certain day in April following. Before the time fixed the defendant broached the subject of annulling the contract, as the parents on both sides were opposed to the match. It was claimed on the one side that the dissolution of the contract was mutual, and that the lady returned the engagement ring voluntarily. On the other hand, it is alleged that she never consented to the annulling of the contract, and that after the ring was sent back in voluntary act, as expressing her desire to terminate the engagement, but compulsory for the reason that she deemed it dishonorable to keep the token after the giver had broken his promise. In arguing the question of damages, defendant's counsel claimed that she had sustained no real injury, but had rather occasion to congratulate herself on her escape from the charge of six children, and the complications growing out of unfriendly family relations. Two first cousins-in-law and a young step-mother with six children on her hands, formed a group that might have tried the patience even of a Saint. The Court charged the jury as to the law, and they retired to deliberate on a verdict. It is proper to state that the defendant married some time after the engagement with Miss Miller terminated. Messrs. Weir & Gibson and Mullen appeared for the plaintiff, and Thomas M. Marshall and Lewis for the defendant.

Michael Lally vs. Chas. Rosenfelt. Verdict for plaintiff for $282 42.

John P. Dunningham vs. Meyers, Schoyer & Co.; feigned issue to determine the ownership of certain moneys. Verdict for defendant.

W. H. Mechling, President of the International Bank, vs. A. W. Erwin & Co.; action on a promissory note. On trial.

James Cooke vs. A. M. McClure; action for damages received in a fall in defendant's lumber yard at McKeesport. On trial.

Quarter Sessions—Judge Stowe.

Larry Gibson and John Finn, indicted in two cases for aggrevated assault and battery, were convicted of simple assault and battery in one case, and acquitted in another. Peter Donahue was the prosecutor in the case of conviction and Wm. B. Purnell in the other.

Nancy Friel, indicted for aggravated assault and battery, pleaded guilty to simple assault and battery. Florence Douglass was the prosecutor.

Rosella Turnbull pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy. The allegation was that she forged a deed from Helen M. Brown to James L. Clark for a lot of ground on Aiken avenue in the Twentieth ward. David B. Reed was the prosecutor.

Nancy Friel alias Nancy Bulger, was acquitted of a charge of forcible entry and detainer, and the plaintiff, Nancy J. Locke directed to pay costs.

Acquittals were had in a number of unimportant cases.

Nancy Brown pleaded guilty to a charge of malicious mischief.

R. S. Stevenson is on trial on a charge of larceny as bailee of a sewing machine.

An English Oarsman's Challenge.

The London sporting paper, *Bell's Life* says: "With regard to the rowing contests on the Western continent, Boyd expresses his willingness to cross the Atlantic and meet them on their own waters. He is ready to make a match with Hanlon, of Toronto, on the terms which he offers Higgins—that is, he will row Hanlon a sculiers' race on Toronto lake for £300 a side receiving £150 for expenses. Boyd will further hold himself in readiness to make a match to row Wallace Ross, of St. John, New Brunswick, a four mile race on the Bedford basin, Halifax, Nova Scotia, receiving £100 for expenses, in a match for £500 a side; or he will row Wm. Scharff, of Pittsburgh, over the same course, for the same stake and the same allowance for expenses. Articles of agreement for any of these matches will be signed on their receipt by Boyd, at his address, Hillgate, Gateshead on Tyne."

Scharff and his friends think this asking of £100 for expenses a little thin considering that our townsman's expenses to the place of meeting would be nearly as much as those of Boyd.

Caught Again.

"Curly" Harris, an individual well known in police circles both here and in Philadalphia, has again been arrested in the latter city and held for trial on charges preferred against him several years ago. Harris was but recently released from the Eastern Penitentiary, and before he was safely lodged there gave officers having him in charge much trouble.

Break in the Old Basin.

Superintendent Atkinson had a force of men engaged last night in repairing a leak in the lower end of the old Bedford avenue reservoir. Every means is being taken to prevent a break. It is believed that no serious consequences will ensue.

FIRE AT PARKER.

The Parker House Nearly Destroyed.

The Parker City *Daily*, of yesterday, says:

Shortly after two o'clock this morning the inmates of the Parker House, were aroused from their slumber by the cry of fire. One of the girls, named Annie O'Neil, first gave the alarm, whereupon Frank Arne, the proprietor, passed through the house warning everybody to get up and save themselves.

In less time than it takes to write these lines both men and women were hurriedly making their escape in a half nude condition, and gathering up what clothes they could, dressed themselves on the railroad track or on River avenue.

A tremendous outcry was immediately made, and the postoffice hose was at once got to work, followed in a short time by the Columbia's and the Citizens' from the hill.

Immense volumes of smoke were issuing from all parts of the building, but the great difficulty was to locate the fire, which, after considerable work, was found to be mainly in the cellar under the office. As soon as this became apparent, a hole was chopped by the fire companies in the side of the building in the postoffice alley, and powerful streams brought to bear, which were shifted to different parts of the house as the fire was found to be extending.

It seemed almost impossible to save the house, but in about two hours the untiring efforts of the boys gained the victory, and the imminent danger was passed.

The great peculiarity of the fire was the fact that nearly every room in the house was burned, while no flames existed—nothing indeed but smouldering. The fire, therefore, must have passed up through the partitions, and it was only by the most heroic efforts of the firemen that a disastrous conflagration was prevented.

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THE TEMPERANCE WORK.

The Usual Crowded Gatherings Last Evening.

The "Old Home," Fifth avenue M. P church, was crowded again to its utmost capacity last evening. After the usual evening devotional exercises, Mr. Murphy made one of those short, magnetic and eloquent addresses for which he is noted.

Rev. Alexander Clark said this was one of the most wonderful movements that has ever taken place in this city. If we had faith, even as a grain of mustard seed, all impediments would soon get out of our way. He was glad to see the harmony and unanimity with which the churches were engaging in this work; it was a pentiocstal time, a glorious shower of God's love upon all the people. He wanted to see all the dear men present have their names written in the Lamb's book of life.

S. Reed Johnston, Samuel T. Paisley, Frank X. Burns, W. C. Coundig, James A. Murphy, James Snowden and others made short speeches. The speakers for the meeting at Library Hall, on Sunday evening next, will be Francis Murphy, M. Swartzwelder, Esq., Colonel Richard Realf, Mike Lannigan, David Hall, Frank X. Burns, John Irwin and others. Tickets for this meeting are on sale at R. H. Davis & Co., corner Fifth avenue and Wood street, McClarren & McKennan, both drug stores, Market street and Fifth avenue, Hale's music store, Smithfield street.

THE OVERFLOW MEETING.

The audiences at the overflow meetings, held in the Cumberland Presbyterian church, are now largely increased and numbers are signing the pledge nightly. The meeting last night was led by Gilbert McMaster, Esq, who read a portion of scriptures and led in prayer. He then made an eloquent address, urging all to sign the pledge. The following gentlemen then made a few brief remarks: Messrs. McMarr, Johnston, Vance, Vogle, Henry Carter, Longbaugh and M. Lysle. There will be another meeting in the same place to night, and Mr. Murphy will be most likely present during the evening. There will be several good speakers present. All are invited.

FALLEN WOMEN.

A meeting of ladies was held in the Smithfield M. E. church yesterday afternoon, to take measures looking to the organization of a society having for its object the reformation of fallen women. Mrs. W. A. Herron presided, and addresses were made by several ladies, including Mrs. Russell, of Chicago, who has been engaged in the work in Western cities. Mr. Francis Murphy and Dr. Wood were present and addressed the meeting. Another meeting will be held at the same place this afternoon.

CITY MATTERS IN BRIEF.

TRAINS are now being delayed by the freshet.

DIPTHERIA is prevalent at Bellevue. In one family five children are down with the disease.

THE contract for the building of the first ten miles of the Northwestern road has been closed.

MR. R. SHACKLEFORD, General Baggage Agent of the P. C. & St. L. R. R., died at Columbus on Wednesday.

A FREIGHT train on the Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad jumped the track below Rochester Wednesday, wrecking several of the cars.

THE new Masonic Hall building in Lawrenceville will be dedicated on Friday, the 26th inst. The hall is being handsomely fitted up for meetings.

THE committee appointed by the Allegheny Board of Controllers to investigate City Superintendent Davis will resume operations on Monday evening next.

PROTHONOTARY KENNEDY is about to institute proceedings for the collection of some $19,000 of unpaid and overdue costs now on the books of the several courts.

A NEW swindling dodge has been discovered. Some scoundrels travel with railroad baggage checks and have succeeded in exchanging worthless trunks for valuable ones.

MRS. KELLEY, residing in Booth's row on Twenty-first street, has been arrested and held for trial in $300 bail for stealing coal from the Allegheny Valley cars on Pike street.

THOMAS C. DEAN and William J. Conroy, boys about sixteen years of age, ran away from their home at Natrona, on Wednesday, and the police of this city are asked to look out for them.

TO-MORROW, between one and three o'clock in the afternoon, five hundred loaves of bread will be distributed among the needy at the Fifth avenue Methodist Church, opposite Magee street.

PETER YERKES, a carpenter on the South Side, broke his leg in two places, on the Steubenville turnpike Tuesday evening by a fall on the ice. He was conveyed home and medical aid summoned.

FIVE young men were arrested last night for coasting on Grant and Allegheny avenues, Allegheny, and escorted to the lock-up, where they each deposited $10 for their appearance before the Mayor this morning.

The Workingman's Savings Bank of Allegheny has elected as directors Messrs. Wm. Reinstein, Sr., Wm. Beinecke, G. A. Deilenbach, F. J. Fleck, J. A. Hermann, August Kieber, B. Stotz, C. Zies and A. Grusch.

THE Howard school Board has organized by the elections of the following officers: President, W. J. Fennerty; Secretary, R. W. Lyon; Depository, Lawrence Savings Band; Representative to the Central Board, W. J. Fennerty.

THE Pittsburgh Teachers Institute meets in the High School chapel this evening when Professor Jillson will deliver his lecture "The History of Electricity." The Institute will meet to-morrow morning at Ralston school hall.

MCCANDLESS lodge, 390, A. Y. M., will dedicate their new hall in Lawrenceville, on Friday, January 26. They claim it is the handsomest hall in the State, or will be when the new carpets and furniture are put in. A banquet will be one of the features of the dedication.

A SERIES of concerts are being given at Salsbury Hall, South Side, under the auspices of the St. Vincent De Paul Society, for the benefit of the poor of St. John's church. Wednesday night the first was given and they will be continued during the remainder of the week.

THE Fayette County Courts will be in session on Monday next. The term will last two weeks, the first week being devoted to criminal business. It is probable that Danny Downer and others, charged with conspiracy to rob the Fayette County National bank, will be tried at this term.

THE *Temperance Ensign*, the new paper issued in the interest of the temperance revival, sold an edition of three thousand copies at the church door yesterday, in a couple of hours. A second and larger edition of sixteen feet will be ready early next week, containing the excellent portrait of Mr. Murphy.

NOTWITHSTANDING the weekly confiscations of light weight butter, make by Mrs. Hastings, of the Allegheny market, the farmers continue to impose on their customers. Yesterday morning the Poor Board received thirty-one pounds or more of the article, which is three-fourths of the amount taken up by the clerk.

DAVID MCKEE, a resident of Fayette street, in the Fourth ward, who has become violently insane, was taken to the Central station yesterday morning by detectives Moessner and Long, but not without considerable difficulty. He was subsequently placed in jail preparatory to an order of court for his confinement at Dixmont.

AT the Convent of the Benedictine, Carrolltown, Pa., Miss Susan O'Hagan, of Galtizen, as Sister Mary Clare, and Miss Mary Bailey, of Johnstown, as Sister Mary Joseph, took final vows, and Miss Anna Kelley, of Latrobe, as Sister Mary Anselm, received the habit and white veil. Rev. Father Amanda officiated on the occasion.

THOSE having goods for export, either to Liverpool or Glasgow, may be interested to learn that the iron clipper ship "Saint Patrick" will remain at Baltimore, for twenty days, for cargo. G. B. Rathfon, Esq., Freight Agent of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, will secure rates for those who may call upon or address him.

HEALTH OFFICER FORDING, of the South Side, reports eight new cases of smallpox on that side of the river during this week. The new cases are located as follows: Four cases in the Twenty-sixth ward; one in the Thirty-second ward; two in the Thirty-third; one in the Thirty-fourth ward. There are no deaths from the disease reported as yet.

AT an election held by the stockholders of the Allegheny Trust Company, all the members of the previous board were re-elected without opposition. It is thought that the affairs of this institution will be closed up within a year. About four-fifths of the indebtedness has been paid off leaving nearly one hundred thousand dollars yet to pay.

THE Duquesne Works are constructing the engines and boilers for a steamboat now being built at Carrollton, Pa., for Joseph Burleigh, formerly of this city, but now of Yankton, Dakota Territory. The steamer is to be 190 feet long, 32 feet wide and 4 feet depth of hold, and will run on the Missouri river from St. Louis to the head of navigation. Her engines are 13 inches diameter and 5 feet stroke, supplied by two steel boilers 42 inches in diameter, 24 feet long, and having four flues. Her machinery will cost $7,500, and the boat is to be in the water by the middle of March.

THE Committee of the Allegheny Poor Board on the Home and Farm met at the House at Claremont on Wednesday, when it was resolved to use the money obtained by will from Misses Sally Murphy and Mary McCullough, to the purchase of a library, and Rev. Mr. Collier and President Neely were appinted to act with the Superintendent and clerk. Superintendent Grubbs and Dr. B. B. Smith were authorized to establish suitable rooms in the male and female departments for hospital purposes.

CONTROLLER WARNER reports that during 1876, the county of Allegheny paid to the Western Penitentiary the sum of $5,635 08 for the care of our quota of prisoners in that institution. In 1875 we paid $7,259 48, and in 1874 $10,242 07. This decrease in the cost of maintaining prisoners is due principally, if not wholly, to the introduction of the labor system. At present the county has some two hundred more pris